

THE JOURNAL

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Sports Panthers take league golf crown [C1]

Arts & Leisure Tour will feature Panoramic Hill's architectural wonders [C8]

Fire guts library at Castro

 By Shirley Dang
and Karl Fischer
STAFF WRITERS

EL CERRITO — Castro Elementary School volunteer Ed Goldschay installed software for an automated library book checkout system last week. But Monday the library had to leave the system behind as a \$250,000 weekend fire destroyed Castro's 7,000-volume

HOW TO HELP

Money to help rebuild the Castro Elementary library and its collection can be sent to the Castro Library Fund, c/o Mechanics Bank, 9996 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Police ask anyone with information about the fire to call 510-215-4400.

collection sat in a cart outside Room 14 — a bust of Martin

Luther King, Jr., a book about castles and two charred, damp copies of "Crystal & Gem."

"Basically, the whole collection was destroyed," said Principal Galen Murphy.

A shaken campus began instruction Monday beside the smoky remains of Saturday's blaze, which authorities call suspicious. It probably began inside a pair of wheeled recycling bins set outside in front of the room's windows, said El Cerrito Fire

Marshal William Capps.

"They were melted all the way down, so we're thinking the fire began outside" in those bins, Capps said. "The containers are large and made of plastic. Materials placed inside these bins would not ordinarily combust by themselves."

Firefighters found no obvious signs of arson but considered the circumstances suspicious enough

See FIRE, Page A8



MARK DUFRENE/STAFF

A WORKER sprays a sealer on the fire-damaged ceiling in the Castro Elementary School library Monday.

County awaits input on events ordinance

■ A law that would require new permits based on the number of people at events will go before planners, supervisors

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

Some Kensington residents are keeping close watch on a temporary events ordinance that may restrict the number of people who can gather at a backyard amphitheater on Coventry Road, as well as the number of events that can be held there per year.

"I believe the best protection for everybody — the neighbors and the property owner — is a law that clearly states what you can and cannot do," said Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia. "And that's really the pur-

pose (of the ordinance)."

Gioia said the county is waiting for comments about the ordinance from county advisory committees in unincorporated areas. It will then go before the county planning commission for a recommendation and then to the Board of Supervisors for approval, possibly in June, Gioia said.

The Kensington Municipal Advisory Committee discussed the proposal during a three-hour meeting held with Gioia last week. Reaction from residents was mixed.

Under the ordinance, a new type of permit would be required for events exceeding 50 or more people in a residential district, or 150 people in any zoning district. The ordinance would limit events in residential districts to

See EVENTS, Page A8

Neighbors enduring school's growing pains

■ Albany planners vote to let St. Mary's keep buildings it was previously told to remove

By Alan Lopez

STAFF WRITER

ALBANY — In anticipation of increasing enrollment, St. Mary's College High School will be allowed to keep a building on campus the city had expected to be torn down.

The decision by the city's planning and zoning commission allowing the high school to keep a band pavilion and snack bar on campus also went against the wishes of some neighbors who say the increasing number of students at the school over the last

decade has created daily traffic, parking and noise problems.

"We opposed it because, as one of the (planning) commissioners said (Tuesday) night, it was symbolic and a bargaining tool for us," said Donna DeDiemar, a Berkeley resident who lives near the school.

DeDiemar said traffic and parking problems began after 1994, when the school expanded its enrollment by about 200 students to 630 and increased the size of its gym by 26,000 square feet.

The city approved an additional expansion in 1999, allowing the school to build Frates Memorial Hall, a 9,100-square-foot, two-story building with seven classrooms.

See ST. MARY'S, Page A8



DEAN COPPOLA/STAFF

PRINCIPAL REIKO KAMADA pulls students Miya Drain (left), and Karina Weidlin, both 4 years old, at El Cerrito's Sycamore Christian Preschool, which is celebrating 10 years of serving the Japanese-American community.

Japanese culture is central to preschool

■ Sycamore Christian Preschool, will be celebrating its 10th anniversary Sunday

By Martin Snapp

STAFF WRITER

Like many 5-year-olds, Kana Luzmoor of Oakland dreads going to the dentist. "We literally have to drag her to the car," said her father, Steve Luzmoor.

Two months ago, when she was due for her yearly teeth

cleaning, she refused to go. No matter how much her parents tried to reassure her, she was terrified.

Then Yumie Kobayashi, her teacher at Sycamore Christian Preschool in El Cerrito, said, "Kana, what if I went with you?" That did the trick. Swallowing her apprehensions, Kana kept the appointment.

"She was so proud of herself afterwards," said her mother, Michiko Luzmoor. "She learned an important lesson about conquering her fears. But it would-

n't have happened if she hadn't trusted her teacher so much."

Accompanying kids to the dentist isn't usually part of a teacher's job description, but Sycamore isn't your usual preschool.

It's an outgrowth of Sycamore Congregational Church, which was founded in 1904 to serve the local Japanese-American community.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary on Sunday, the preschool began in 1995 as a playgroup with two children. Today, it

serves 36 kids, the maximum it can handle. Many others are on the waiting list.

Most students live in Oakland, Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington, and Richmond; but some come from as far away as Lafayette and Antioch.

Their parents say the secret of the school's success is its principal, Reiko Kamada, who is aided by one teacher and two assistants.

"My son, Seiji, can hardly wait

See SYCAMORE, Page A6

Longtime Albany art teacher Edmund Hill dies

By Jessie Acock-Carlisle
and Wendy Gu
CORRESPONDENTS

Edmund Hill, a longtime art teacher and coach at Albany High School, passed away peacefully in Palm Springs April 20 after a brief illness.

Hill, 62, who touched the lives of thousands of students, colleagues and families through his kindness and his passion for art, retired in 2003 after teaching at Albany High for 30 years.

His former students, as well as faculty colleagues, noted that for many students Ed Hill was

quite simply the reason they got through school at all.

"Ed Hill was true to one thing — the students," said Virginia Behm, former Albany principal and a teaching colleague of Hill's. "He was single-minded, a good

See HILL, Page A8

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for Ed Hill is planned for 2 p.m. Sunday in the Albany High School gym. Doors will open at 1 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED

EDMUND HILL would annually put his students' art works on exhibition for the community to enjoy.

INSIDE

At the Library

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Martin Snapp

■ A late career change put teacher-to-be on a fulfilling path. Page A3

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NEWS BRIEFS

Albany

Tennis Across America clinic set May 14

A free Tennis Across America clinic will be held Saturday, May 14, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Memorial Park tennis courts, 1331 Portland Ave. The event is sponsored by the United States Professional Tennis Association and the city. Coaching will be provided by Albany tennis instructor Alex Brown and others. Players of all skill levels are welcome. For more information, call the city's recreation and community services department at 510-524-9283.

Chamber board of directors installed

New members of the Albany Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors were installed at a dinner held last week. They are David Arkin, Debbie Fairhurst, Joan Larson and Stephanie Taylor.

The chamber board officers are Sherman Lim, president; Shirley Fudge-Mueller, first vice president; Roseanne Pontes, second vice president; Wayne Black, third vice president; and Elisabeth Bell, treasurer. Additional board members are Allan Cain, Dana Milner, Yolanda Stenmark, Peter Tung and Winnie Yu.

Youths welcome to information night

All boys and girls age 14 to 20, interested in hiking, camping, kayaking, rock climbing and other outdoor sports are invited to the welcome/information night for Albany Venture Crew on Wednesday, May 4, 7:30-9 p.m. Albany Memorial Building, 1325 Portland Ave. For details contact James Rhodes-Dryer at 510 610-1634.

El Cerrito

Alumni invited to weekend celebration

The community and especially El Cerrito High School alumni from 1941-2005 are invited to a weekend celebration May 13-15 before the school is demolished to make way for a new campus.

The weekend events will begin with a homecoming mixer May 13 and include a parade, ceremonies, a fiesta, dance and final tours on Saturday and Sunday at the high school.

Saturday's alumni highlights include Miss USA 1966, Maria Remenyi Cantrall, 1972 Olympian Rodney Lee and former Boston Red Sox player Pumpsie Green, a 1955 grad. Alumni are invited to bring their memories and school mementos.

Details: Lu Tipping, 510-233-7731 or tipping1@aol.com.

Boy Scout Troop 104 plans spaghetti feed

Boy Scout Troop 104 will hold its annual reunion and spaghetti feed from 6-8 p.m. May 6 at Camp Herms. The all-you-can-eat dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread and beverages. Baked goods also will be offered for sale. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under age 8. For details call at 510-527-8598. All funds raised support troop activities.

Art show slated for community center

The El Cerrito Art Association's 29th annual art show will be held Friday through Sunday at the community center, 7007 Moers Lane. A reception and awards ceremony will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday, followed by the show from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. There will be art for sale. Admission is free. For more information, call Michaela Daystar at 510-526-9564.

Furniture store OK'd for ex-car shop

A 4,300-square-foot furniture store has been approved on the north side of town at 11940 San Pablo Ave., formerly the site of Trend Motors, a used car dealership. The city's design review board approved the project at its Wednesday, April 20 meeting.

The City Council revoked a use permit for Trend Motors in January, 2004, after the business owner allowed vehicle repair violating conditions of the permit. The 11,408-square-foot site, which is adjacent to the city's Baxter Creek restoration, has since been vacant.

The new business, which will sell imported furniture and gifts, could open as early as June, said El Cerrito planning manager Jennifer Carman.

The restoration of 750 feet of Baxter Creek is expected to begin in July and be completed in the fall, said environmental analyst Melanie Mintz. It will include an adjacent foot path, two small civic areas and interpretive signs.

Rose Celebration set at Community Center

Annual Heritage Rose Celebration will be held May 15, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, Moers and Ashbury. Hundreds of old garden roses and rose related items for sale and on display.

This year the Celebration coincides with the Heritage Rose Foundation 2005 Conference. For information contact Gregg Lowery 707-829-2035.

Kensington

'Flute Player' film to be screened May 7

"The Flute Player," an award-winning documentary, will be screened at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley on Saturday, May 7 at 1 p.m. The film tells the story of a young man who returns to Cambodia to confront his past as a child-soldier in the Khmer Rouge army. Arn Chorn-Pond, the subject of the film, will answer questions and discuss his work to save Cambodia's once-outlawed traditional music. The church is located at 1 Lawson Road in Kensington. For more information, call 510-525-0302.

— Alan Lopez and Deborah Byrd

Transient charged with 12 felonies

■ Man, 36, arraigned in connection with sexual assaults against women in Berkeley and Albany earlier this year

By Ivan Delventhal
and Karl Fischer
STAFF WRITERS

OAKLAND — A 36-year-old transient has been arrested in connection with sexual assaults in Berkeley and Albany earlier this year, authorities said Wednesday.

Lonnie Torres was arraigned Tuesday on four counts of kidnapping for purposes of sexual assault, three counts of robbery, three counts of sexual penetration and two counts of rape. All 12 offenses are felonies.

Police said the charges stem from three cases in January and February. The first occurred in the 900 block of Key Route Boulevard in Albany about 2 a.m. Jan. 12, when a man with a handgun confronted two women walking there.

"He forced them away from the sidewalk to an area a short distance away, where he robbed them at gunpoint and (sexually) assaulted one of the victims," police Lt. Daniel Adams said.

The descriptions of the rapist and his methods were similar in each case, and Berkeley police quickly connected the assaults, said police Officer Shira Warren.

But it was not until after officers had already booked Torres on unrelated charges in late February that they realized he resembled the rapist.

Court records show that Torres was arrested at about 10:20 p.m. Feb. 22 near the North Berkeley BART Station when a woman saw him riding her stolen Trek mountain bike. When he was approached by Berkeley police officers, Torres attempted to flee but was apprehended.

During an ensuing search, police found Torres was carrying a butterfly knife and a white crystalline substance. Prosecutors charged Torres with receiving stolen property and possession for sale of methamphetamine. He has been jailed on \$540,000 bail since his arrest.

Authorities collected a DNA sample from Torres, which has been submitted for testing in connection with several of these cases. But prosecutor John

Adams said Wednesday the res had not been linked to three Alameda County arrest DNA evidence. He declined to elaborate on how Torres been implicated.

Court records show Torres has prior felony convictions for drug sales, residential burglary and auto theft. He has a time in state prison.

Meanwhile, El Cerrito continue to investigate Torres may have been masked gunman who raped a young woman inside a Berkeley Street apartment. That case, police said, Torres barged into a home, the woman answered his knock at the door. The rapist ran to the apartment, then forced the woman to lie on the bathroom floor while he sexually abused her roommate at gunpoint.

Reach Ivan Delventhal at 510-763-5418 or idelventhal@ccimes.com. Reach Karl Fischer at 510-262-2728 or kfischer@ccimes.com.

ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

Monday, April 18

■ **SHORTS STOLEN** — An Albany man reported that early in the evening someone stole his shorts with his keys in the pocket from Cougar Field.

Tuesday, April 19

■ **SATURN STOLEN** — During the night someone stole a dark green 1995 Saturn from a garage in the 800 block of Pierce Street.

Thursday, April 21

■ **COMPUTER STOLEN** — An Oakland woman reported that she left a computer in a black computer bag in front of her boyfriend's home in the 900 block of Ordway Street early in the morning. When she went back out about two hours later it was gone.

■ **DOUBLE DRUG ARREST** — At about 12:30 a.m. officers responded to a residence in the 700 block of Tal-

bot Street on reports of a smell like a meth lab coming from the lower level of the house. Officers arrested a 46-year-old Albany man and a 43-year-old Pinole woman for conspiracy, delaying or obstructing an officer and drug charges. The Albany man was additionally charged with two additional drug charges and parole violations. They were both cited and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

Friday, April 22

■ **PETTY THEFT** — Officers arrested a 32-year-old Berkeley woman for petty theft when she was caught taking alcohol from the Safeway Store in the 1500 block of Solano Avenue. She was cited and released.

Saturday, April 23

■ **DUI** — At about 3:30 a.m. officers stopped a red 2001 Chevrolet pickup near Gilman Street and Interstate 80. They arrested the driver, a 39-year-old Oakland man, on suspicion of DUI.

He was cited and released.

■ **VANDALISM** — During the night someone put beige paint on a green 1998 Toyota Corolla parked near Portland Avenue and San Gabriel Street.

■ **DOG CHASES OUT INTRUDER** — At about 5 p.m. a resident in the 1500 block of Posen Street reported that a thief attempted to break into her home. She found the curtain in shreds and blood on it. It appeared someone tried to come in through the window and the dog chased them out. There were no witnesses, except the dog.

Monday, April 25

■ **COMPUTER STOLEN** — The principal at Marin School in the 1000 block of Santa Fe Avenue reported that during the night someone stole her computer from her desk. Officers are investigating.

■ **SCHOOL BREAK-IN** — Someone broke in to a school in the 700 block of Jackson Street. Officers are investi-

gating.

■ **PETTY THEFT** — Security at Target Store in the 1000 block of Eastshore reported having an employee in custody for petty theft. A 54-year-old Richmond woman was also found to have a suspended driver's license and repeated charges. She was arrested and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

Summary

During the week of April 18 officers towed five vehicles, responded to seven false alarms, attended to lost or deceased animals, and assisted two people who were lost out of their cars. In the domestic arena officers responded to 15 disturbances and 161 civil cases. Officers stopped 89 vehicles on issues including 30 citations and 35 warnings. Firefighter/paramedics responded to two fire calls and medical emergencies.

EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

Tuesday, April 19

■ **ACCORD STOLEN** — A 1991 Honda Accord was taken from Lexington Avenue at Key Boulevard sometime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

■ **COLLISION, DRUGS** — A Richmond man and an El Cerrito woman, both 54, were arrested on suspicion of cocaine possession after the car they were riding in collided with a parked car in the 6400 block of Hagen Boulevard at 2:50 p.m. The Richmond man, who was driving, also did not have a driver's license.

Wednesday, April 20

■ **ACCORD RECOVERED** — A stolen 1993 Honda Accord was recovered in the 2300 block of Tamalpais Avenue. The car had been reported stolen to Richmond police on April 16.

■ **ROBBERY** — A 49-year-old Richmond woman was arrested on suspicion of attempted robbery on San Pablo Avenue near Hill Street at 9:37 a.m.

■ **SHOPLIFTING** — A 27-year-old homeless man was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting clothing and other items at Target at 8:15 p.m. The man had an extensive theft history, police said.

■ **CIVIC STOLEN** — A 1991 Honda Civic was taken from the 700 block of Colusa Avenue between 10:30 p.m. on April 20 and 6:30 a.m. the next day.

Thursday, April 21

■ **ACCORD STOLEN** — A 1992 Honda Accord was taken from the 1800 block of Liberty Street between 7:10 a.m. and 2:20 p.m.

■ **TERCEL TAKEN** — A 1983 Toyota Tercel was taken from the 10200 block of San Pablo Avenue between 3 p.m. on April 21 and 1:45 p.m. the next day.

■ **ACCORD STOLEN** — A 1994 Honda Accord was taken from the 500 block of Kearney Street between 10:30 p.m. on April 21 and 8:20 p.m. the next day.

■ **AUTO BURGLARY** — Property was taken from a car in the 6700 block of El Dorado Avenue between 6 p.m. on April 21 and 10:49 a.m. the next day. An attempt was made to steal the car as well, police said.

■ **BASEMENT BURGLARY** — Power tools were taken from a basement in the 6400 block of Waldo Lane between 7 p.m. on April 21 and 9 a.m. the next day.

Friday, April 22

■ **BASEMENT BURGLARY** — Tools and clothing were taken from a basement in the 6800 block of Cutting Boulevard between 4 p.m. on April 22 and noon on April 24.

■ **HIT-AND-RUN** — A 22-year-old Richmond man was arrested on suspicion of hit-and-run and being under the influence of alcohol, after he collided into another car at Richmond Street and Eureka Avenue at 2:37 p.m., police said. One woman involved in the accident suffered bruising to her head, police said.

■ **MEDICAL DEVICE STOLEN** — A portable radio and medical device were taken from a vehicle in the 6100 block of Potrero Avenue sometime between 7 and 7:50 p.m.

Saturday, April 23

■ **ACCORD TAKEN** — A 1991 Honda Accord was taken from the

6500 block of Hagen Boulevard between 10 p.m. on April 23 and the next day.

Monday, April 25

■ **ROBBERY** — A robber armed a semi-automatic handgun took a man's wallet and cell phone on the Ohlone Greenway at Waldo Avenue at 4:05 a.m.

■ **EXPLORER STOLEN** — A 1991 Ford Explorer was taken from the 6700 block of Glen Mawr Avenue between 7 a.m. and noon.

■ **STOLEN, FORGED CHECKS** — A 20-year-old Berkeley man was arrested at 12:18 p.m. on suspicion of stolen and forged check at Market Bank in the 9000 block of San Pablo Avenue. A 40-year-old Berkeley man was also arrested in connection with the forgery and possession of stolen property, police said.

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Shareef Dajani, general manager • Deborah Byrd, Hills Editor

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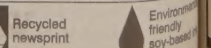
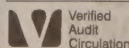
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Couple finds fulfillment shaping young lives

IT'S BEEN A good year for Gay Grieger-Lods, a first grade teacher at Wilson Elementary School in Richmond. She was named the West Contra Costa County Unified School District's elementary Teacher of the Year. Then she was chosen as one of the winners of the 2005 West Contra Costa Public Education Fund Teaching Excellence Awards, which will be presented May 14. She is also one of only four teachers in the district to have national certification.

She and her husband, Dennis Lods, the assistant principal at West Contra Costa Elementary School, are role models for the rest of us because they prove it's never too late to reinvent yourself. Ten years ago, he was a lawyer and she was a travel agent. And they were both very good at what they did.

"But something was missing," said Gay. "I decided I wanted to work with kids, so at age 46 I took water safety and lifeguard courses and went to work at the Richmond Plunge. I loved it, but I didn't want money. So I started working as a substitute teacher." Her first assignment was at Washington Elementary School in Point Richmond. "I was floundering, I told the principal, Kaye Burnside, 'I don't know enough to do this job.' And I'll never forget what she said: 'You have something we don't teach.' By which the principal meant that she cared."

"To have somebody as strong as her say something like that made all the difference, and I've never been afraid again."

Meanwhile, Dennis' legal career came to a sudden halt on the eve of an important trial when he was badly injured in a car crash and laid up for more than six months. "It was a shock to discover that the business could go on without me," he said. "That allowed me to watch the playoff games and the World Series for the first time in my life. It also gave me a great deal of time to think about what I was doing. I saw Gay settling into her new career, saw her satisfaction, and saw what she was doing for the kids, and I decided to be a parent, too."

They both ended up at Wilson — she in the first grade, he



MARTIN SNAPP
Snapp Shots

in the third grade. They made a great tag team: She taught the kids to read, then he taught them to write.

"Our goal was 'every child a reader, every child a writer,'" he said. "Math is important, too, but 36 percent of the California Math Standards Test is word problems. If you can't read 'em, you can't do 'em."

The most important thing in teaching is to treat the students with respect, kindness, patience and love. And Gay and Dennis have that in abundance.

But it takes more than good intentions to be a good teacher. They quickly ran up against a language and cultural barrier that separated them from their Spanish-speaking students.

So, on their own time and money, they took years of intensive Spanish language and culture courses at Contra Costa College and spent their summer vacations in Mexico.

Another problem: "Nothing in our background enabled us to teach kids in the inner city schools to read," said Dennis.

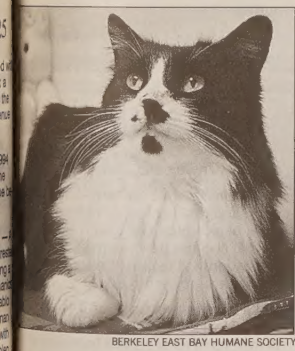
So for two years, again on their own time and money, they drove to Sacramento every Saturday for daylong advanced instruction in phonetics and other teaching techniques.

They'll never get rich. But they have the satisfaction of knowing they're making a real difference. They also get to walk to work — Wilson is only a couple of blocks from their home.

"When I was in the first grade, my teacher, Mrs. Johnson, the one who taught me to read, lived a block from the school," said Gay. "Every day when I walked home, I'd look up at her window and wave to her. Now here I am at age 58, and kids come by my home and wave to me!"

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or email msnapp@cc-times.com.

PET OF THE WEEK



BRIDGETTE IS a 6-year-old long-hair. Staff at the Humane Society, where she may be available for adoption, say she's "a social girl who is often the first to greet you when you walk into her 'Catopia' room." She is declawed and must be an indoor-only cat.

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society.

Dogs: Female hound mix, 3 years; female Labrador retriever, 1 year; male dachshund/Labrador retriever mix, 2 years; female terrier mix, 2 years; male terrier mix, 2 years; female dachshund, 1 year; male pitbull mix, 10 months; male Australian Shepherd mix, 10 months.

Cats: Female domestic short-hair black and white, 8 years; female long-haired black and white, 8 years; female long-haired black and white, 8 years; female domestic short-hair tortoiseshell, 5 years; female Maine Coon long-haired mix black and white, 5 years; female domestic short-hair dilute tortoiseshell, 4 years; female domestic short-hair black, 4 years; female Havana Brown mix brown, 3 years; male

Ragdoll mix chocolate point, 3 years; male long-haired white, 3 years; female Scottish fold/domestic short-hair mix tortie, 3 years; male domestic short-hair orange tabby, 2 years; male domestic short-hair brown tabby, 2 years; female domestic short-hair black tabby, 1 year; male domestic short-hair black, 1 year; female domestic short-hair dilute tortie, 1 year; female domestic short-hair brown tabby, 1 year.

Adoption fee: dogs \$125; cats \$100; rabbits \$40 — including spaying/neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley East Bay Humane Society is at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday, closed Monday. Details: www.berkeleyhumane.org or call 510-845-7735.

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Neighbors

Shop provides mobility for physically challenged

By Alan Lopez
STAFF WRITER

EL CERRITO — There's the Wrangler personal mobility vehicle, a scooter with four treaded tires and the look of a miniature jeep. It's made for a macho kind of guy who just lost his driver's license, said Ed Brown, a San Pablo Avenue businessman who sells the device.

Then there's the Breeze, a silver, highly stylized three-wheel scooter. It's advertised as having real shock absorbers, a powerful headlight and "superior ergonomics and engineering."

"When you see it in person," said Brown, his eyes lighting up, "you go 'Oh, I've got to have one of those things.'"

As the owner of FastServe Mobility, Inc., Brown sells motorized wheelchairs and scooters, helping physically challenged people maintain their independence. His business has changed over the years but one thing remains constant: It's growing fast.

"We need about twice the space," said Brown, 78.

Two dozen motorized wheelchairs and scooters sit in line at his shop at 10945 San Pablo Ave.

Motorized wheelchairs are more expensive than scooters because they're smaller, and more versatile and comfortable, said Brown. Power chairs cost about \$5,000 a piece, while scooters go for \$1,300 to \$3,000.

MORE INFORMATION

FastServe Mobility, Inc. is located at 10945 San Pablo Ave. For more information, call 510-236-8101.

Motorized chairs can be taken apart and placed into the trunk of a car and can be used inside a home. Those are two advantages scooters lack.

Bending at his knees, Brown quickly took apart a motorized chair into its three main components: The chair, the frame where the four wheels are attached and the battery, which is about the size of a large dictionary.

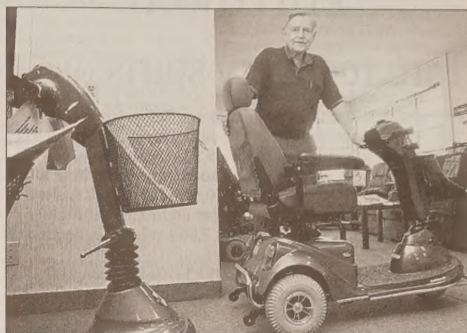
Then he sat in a motorized chair and spun in place a few times.

"This will turn around on a dime," said Brown, manipulating the chair's controls with his right hand, "because one motor can go one direction and the other motor can go the other direction."

Originally from Boston, Brown earned an electrical engineering degree from Tufts University and has worked in the medical technology field for decades.

He went into business for himself 11 years ago, repairing durable medical equipment at El Cerrito Plaza.

But the company that supplied his franchise went bankrupt after



ED BROWN of FastServe Mobility is the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year.

two years and Brown went into sales.

The Kensington resident has about four employees and sells about \$700,000 worth of equipment a year. That includes reclining sofas that also lift a person to their feet, motorized stair lifts and ramps to get over stairs.

He also does repairs. Similar businesses, he said, are located in Emeryville and Walnut Creek.

Inside his store, Brown calmly and patiently described to customers the features of the scooters and motorized wheelchairs. Brown would occasionally get

into one of the contraptions himself, zipping across the sales floor.

"He fixed it at no charge, he gave it to me free" said one elderly Richmond Annex man, who had brought his scooter — with an American flag attached to the back — for an annual maintenance check. "Every time I have a problem, I call him. He gives good service."

The El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce named Brown small business owner of the year.

Said Brown of his business: "You're helping people, you're making them independent."

FACES & PLACES

Library reading room gets a remodel

The Kensington Library got a helping hand from the Grubb Company recently, and, as a result, the 40-year-old library's Story Time Room has a brand-new look.

It began with a call from Grubb agent Ruth Frassetto to branch librarian Liz Ruhland. The real estate company was looking for a project to do, and Ruhland immediately thought of the Story Time Room, according to a Grubb news release. So with the company's help, the room was redecorated. Changes included a new coat of paint, floor cushions and a hand-painted mural on three walls. Dick's Carpet donated the carpet, and Contra Costa County installed shelves and cabinets. Grubb also gave the library a new clock that reads "Time to Read" on its face.

Kensington Story Times take place at 7 p.m. Tuesdays.

Albany's goal of transforming its entire business district into the nation's greenest was lauded by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Assemblywoman Loni Hancock and others at an Earth Day press conference April 22 at the city's community center.

"The Green Albany Project is a visionary plan, the first of its kind," Lee said. "I sincerely hope, I actually believe, it will be a model for the entire country."

The Green Albany Project is a joint effort of the Albany Chamber of Commerce and the city. Its goal is to help businesses increase recycling — including food scraps, which will be composted — and reduce the use of electricity, gas, water and other resources among Albany's small-business community.

Hancock said she was proud that a community in the 14th Assembly District was leading the way in the state by having a Chamber of Commerce play a major role in the environmental movement.

Other speakers at the event included Pam Evans from the Alameda County Green Business Program, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, Mari Soll from StopWaste.Org, Albany City Councilmen Farid Javandel and Robert Lieber, and Chamber of Commerce board member and environmental architect David Arkin.

Also at the conference were representatives from Smart Lights, a Berkeley-based agency offering programs to small businesses to reduce use of electricity through high-tech light bulbs, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, AC Transit and Waste Management.

— Compiled by Deborah Byrd



MURALIST JULIE GOODSON-LAWES created this colorful mural for the Kensington Library Story Time Room. It features a large "tree of knowledge" covering one side of the room with a boy and a girl reading beneath. Around the wall are imaginary creatures and, on the opposite side of the room, a large green beanstalk winds up the wall with Jack, small insects, butterflies and elves climbing up — while another little girl reads peacefully below.

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THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

EDITORIAL

Fire recovery starts

THE FIRE at Castro Elementary School probably ignited in the middle of the night, long before the 911 call was made just before 6 a.m. Saturday.

By the time it was brought under control not long after the call, the fire had caused \$250,000 damage. It melted windows, and destroyed computer equipment and other materials including the school's 7,000-volume collection of books.

No people were injured and the brick-and-concrete building was saved. But the destruction of so many books makes a reader heartsick.

As PTA vice president Nelda Welten said after she had seen the damage, "We don't have music. We don't have sports. All they have is the library."

Libraries have been a lifeline for children ever since the two came together. For children who have little in the way of extras, reading is a window to another, richer world of ideas and images.

Even for children who have much, a library can be a refuge and an escape. It's impossible to quantify how many satisfying, many-faceted adult lives have grown from the seeds sown by the chance encounter of a child and a special book.

It is heartening to see that, as authorities worked this week on determining the cause of the fire, the community got going on a recovery effort.

A soccer team raised \$194 for the school at a benefit barbecue Sunday. In Alameda, the hometown of Castro principal Galen Murphy, the George S. Miller Elementary School PTA is spearheading a drive to collect books from families to help rebuild the school's collection (for information e-mail Kate Meade at millerptamom@alamedanet.net).

And an account has been set up at Mechanics Bank in El Cerrito to collect cash donations.

If the Castro School library is like others we've known, it contained, along with the newer books, volumes that were old and out-of-print — but not any less loved for all that. They'll be hard to replace. But new books will soon appear and become just as beloved.

As El Cerrito Councilwoman Janet Abelson said this week, it will be hard to recreate a library and will take some time.

We're glad to see that many in the community are not wasting a minute getting started and we urge everyone who values books and libraries to contribute what they can.

HOW TO HELP

Money to help rebuild the Castro Elementary library and its collection can be sent to the Castro Library Fund, c/o Mechanics Bank, 9996 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530.

Police ask anyone with information about the fire to call 510-215-4400.

YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

House of Representatives

Barbara Lee: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley, most of Oakland) 414 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515, 202-225-2661. Fax: 202-225-9817; 1301 Clay St., Ste. 1000N, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-763-0370. Fax: 510-763-6538. E-mail: barbara.lee@mail.house.gov.

Ellen Tauscher: (D-10th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 555, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 925-932-8899 or 1034 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-1880. E-mail through www.house.gov/tauscher

State Senate

Don Perata: (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov.

Tom Torlakson: (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento CA 95814; 916-445-6083, e-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

Assembly

Loni Hancock: (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

County Supervisors

John Gioia: (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Keith Carson: (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us.

EBMUD

David Richardson: Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington. E-mail: Oakport@igc.org

East Bay Regional Parks

Jean Siri: Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

AC Transit

Joe Wallace: Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

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Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at www.stegesd.dst.ca.us.

Cities

El Cerrito: City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. 510-215-4300. E-mail: citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us

Albany: City offices, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-528-5710.

Kensington: Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

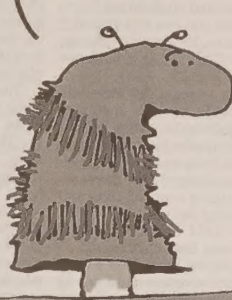
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JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

THE "NEW LOOK" ARLINGTON PARK
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MY FACE PAINTED.DON'T BOTHER. YOU'LL
BE A BUTTERFLY BY
TUESDAY.

HANSEN

ITTY BITTY VARIETY SHOW

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We must be fully informed

In an April 22 Journal article, Councilman Robert Lieber was quoted as saying he opposed a public meeting on our waterfront because he didn't want to give any support to the potential developer.

I feel all Albany residents, including Lieber, deserve and need to be fully informed on any waterfront development so that we will make an informed decision on the future of Albany. Full access to information is essential to the democratic process.

I hope Albany residents can debate and agree on important issues — enhancement of wetlands, improved access to the Bay, the need for income for the city, and a waterfront we can enjoy and be proud of.

Some may want only parkland and others desire amenities where they can meet friends. But we all need to be fully informed.

Ann Berry
Albany

Bad for democracy

A healthy democracy is more than a simple majority wielding absolute power. Attempts to gather unchecked power in a democracy should be regarded with alarm.

Good governance is the result of a dialog and compromise between all parties and all interests. It is disrespectful to the democracy as a whole to shunt off the opportunities for under-represented (especially slightly under-represented) interests to voice their point of view in the legislative body.

It is shameful that a politician, of any party affiliation, thinks it's a good idea to restrict the opportunity for the expression of discussion and dissent by eliminating the possibility of the filibuster.

Good decisions cannot be made without respecting and considering differing points of view. We need to preserve the filibuster to maintain the quality of the democracy we have. Even more importantly, we need to improve our democracy by introducing something even more successfully representative of the people's interests, such as a multi-party proportional representation system.

Instead, we ride the uncompromising winner-take-all seesaw, which serves some extremists some of the time, but woefully under-represents the vast majority of the middle political spectrum practically all of the time.

Howdy Goudy
Kensington

Humankind responsible

Concerning the recent attacking pit bulls: It's our fault. The human race has at last bred dogs to be so aggressive that we can no longer control our own pets.

Humankind, in a sad effort to mirror our own warlike emotions, has overstepped the boundaries of decency and has been too successful in our attempts.

It is a sad day when the very animals that are renowned for their loyalty and affection, and are often called "man's best friend," are betrayed by the humans and bred to be the very worst instead of the best.

When will humans realize there is a point when we have gone too far in our meddling, and let things stay as they are?

Miski Schaller
Kensington

Parked rigs an eyesore

First of all, I want to thank you for your informative newspaper. I read it

thoroughly and enjoy being up to date in what is happening in our city, thanks to you!

My husband and I have been residents of El Cerrito for a little over three years. We love our view and our little house off Cutting Boulevard. The only thing that bothers us is to see all the rigs parked on Eastshore Boulevard (between Potrero and San Pablo avenues).

Some of our friends visiting have commented on what an eyesore they are. No one expects to see such thing when entering a beautiful city such as El Cerrito.

Isn't there another area where they could park? Surely Orchard Supply is not going to like them when they open their brand new store.

Olympia Campos
El CerritoThanks for supporting
Albany youths

Thank you, Journal editorial staff, for recognizing the very talented actors and actresses in the Albany High School Theater Ensemble group in your editorial, "Support the talented youth of Albany."

I recently saw "Wit" and "Benefactors." The acting and directing were superb. I was deeply moved and thoroughly entertained by both plays. I only wish more people had been able to attend, as there were plenty of empty seats.

Fortunately, during the months of May and June, there will be more opportunities to enjoy many performances by the talented youths of our community.

The high school and middle school will be presenting art shows and performing in theater, choral and instrumental music events. On May 22, students will perform at the Albany Arts and Music Festival in Memorial Park. Please watch for future announcements.

Allan Maris
Albany

Maris is the director of Albany Community Foundation.

Fonda apologized

A man spit tobacco juice into the face of actress Jane Fonda after waiting in line to have her sign her new book, saying he felt it was his "debt of honor" to all the other Vietnam vets she angered for her actions in Hanoi in 1972.

Since I'm only 30, it's easy to say I forgive her, since I didn't serve in Vietnam. Those were very different times and there was a huge backlash against Vietnam that had been building for years.

Fonda got swept up in that movement and probably carried her actions a bit further than was necessary, making it very personal to vets. However, I agree that Vietnam was entirely a political war and

we had no business being there.

Were I a Vietnam vet, I'm sure I'd be angry with her, too. But you must admit a grudge of more than 30 years duration is really unhealthy.

I feel the vets should accept the apology Fonda made and move on.

Roy Buckingham
Richmond

Going nuclear

Freedom is a hard-bought thing and should be available to everyone.

The rights of a minority must be preserved against the strength of a majority which wants to govern with no regard to anyone else's value.

Going nuclear would endanger those minority rights and should not be permitted.

Nina Olson
Berkeley

Senseless budget

The New Republican "budget": increase spending and lower taxes.

If I lived my life that way — spending more and making less — I'd have to declare bankruptcy. But I won't be able to do that because new "ownership society" legislation will make it harder for me to get bankruptcy protection.

I'd have to own up to my debt, money or no. How's the U.S. government going to own up to its debt? Sell Iraqi oil on the black market? Maybe that's the plan, but that money will probably line the pockets of Halliburton executives and not balance any U.S. budget deficit.

More likely, my children's children will be paying for this deficit long after the wealthy Americans, benefiting from hefty tax cuts, laugh all the way to bank. Their children's children will do just fine.

If we want to throw a "war," let's pay for it with money from those who benefit most from opening up new Middle East markets: multinational corporations. If they can afford to compensate top executives in the hundreds of millions of dollars, they can afford a high tax burden.

Trickle-down economics? Hah! The lower and middle classes are parched trying to drink from the drip.

Michael Stokowski
Richmond

Hands off retirement funds

Arnold Schwarzenegger has been watching too many movies. In real life, when two people have a written agreement, it is binding. Nobody can come along and say, "Oh, by the way, I don't want to do this any more."

I had a contract with my employer. I worked for a determined length of time and for a certain salary. I would receive a specified monthly retirement benefit that I could count on.

Do not mess with my retirement money. Keep your hands in your own pockets. Balance the budget with state revenues, not my retirement fund — or anyone else's.

Anne Smith
BerkeleyFind the Journal online at
elcerritojournal.com



KATHY ROEHL

Good sport, good cause

HILLTOP Principal Jon Stokes takes his turn in the sponge toss game at the school's carnival April 23. The event brought in more than \$9,000, which is used to fund PTA programs and projects by the school's Dads' Club.

EL CERRITO SCHOOL NOTES

El Cerrito High School
 Fair, Richmond Art Center. The fair runs through May 27. The Richmond Art Center is open noon-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. There is a reception from 6-8 p.m. on May 6. We thank our own Ms. Wehrle for chairing this event for the district.

Harding Elementary

The first Harding Olympics will be held from 3-6 p.m. June 3. In addition to promoting sportsmanship, physical activity, and school spirit among the student body, this end-of-school year event will be a major PTA fund-raiser. Packets went home with children recently. Pledges are needed from the community.

The Harding Elementary School Variety Show 2005 will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 6 in the El Cerrito High School Little Theater. Parent volunteers still needed. For more information, visit <http://www.hardingpta.org/>

El Cerrito Middle School
 Art show continues through May 17. Grades 6-8 Portola students are on display at the 40th Annual District Art

Librarians' take on abridged versions vary

Quote of the week:
 "If there is a demand for these books in your community, that is a valid reason to order them for your library."
 — Posting on the PUBYAC listserve

ON MY DESK is an abridged copy of Mark Twain's "Tom Sawyer." It is attractive — the kind of small hardback book you might reach for if you saw it on a shelf. And if you picked it up and flipped through it, the large dark font and lots of white space would look approachable. You might even consider taking it home to your third- or fourth-grade child — or maybe even a younger child. But the question is: Would this be a good idea? In fact, is the book itself a good idea?

This topic was recently discussed on the listserve I subscribe to, PUBYAC (Public Libraries, Young Adults and Children). One librarian posted the question: Does your library buy abridged classics? The answers — from librarians all over the United States and Canada — were as varied as, well, as the libraries and the



JULIE WINKELSTEIN
 At the Library

communities they serve. This is, of course, what makes librarianship such an interesting profession: It is a field full of thoughtful people with strong opinions and a commitment to the public they serve. And, as with many professions, what that service means can be interpreted in different ways.

As I read through the responses, I realized there were basically two sides to the abridged classics issue. First, there was the more traditional approach: With such a wonderful collection of excellent children's literature in the world, why not encourage children to read age-appropriate books? Why have them read a watered-down version of something when they can read the best? And won't reading an abridged version give the wrong impression of that au-

thor's writings, so later some of these young readers may not be interested in reading any books by that author?

The second approach is more focused on a librarian's responsibility to provide those items that are requested. These librarians would say: If there is a demand for particular books and my library is committed to providing popular literature, then why not? One librarian also mentioned a large Spanish-speaking population who found the easier text more accessible, while another said that the kids reading below their level particularly loved the books.

I have to admit I find it ironic that after emphatically (in a previous column) supporting the idea that any reading is better than no reading, I should find myself leaning toward the purist anti-abridgement view. If you questioned me, I would say that good literature isn't only about the plot, it is about the writing itself. So, when you produce a book that is an altered version of that writing, you have taken away from the richness and value of it. It isn't really "Tom Sawyer" or an-

other classic — it is just based on it.

On the other hand, though, I have to ask myself: What if a child — or an adult, for that matter — reads the shortened book and loves it and then goes on to read the real one? Wouldn't that be good? You could summarize this debate by posing the question: Should librarians give people whatever they ask for, because the money we use to pay ourselves and to provide information comes out of their pockets? Or do we try to provide guidance and education, drawing on our own expertise? Or maybe, to put it even more simply: Do our opinions matter?

As you can see, I have no answer to this particular dilemma. But I do believe that these discussions — among librarians and library users — are an essential part of each community's effort to make the public library relevant now and into the future.

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at jwinkelstein@acclibrary.org or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

ALBANY SCHOOL NEWS

Albany High School

An AHS bike racing or road racing team is forming for next year. The racing team will be a club, since bicycle racing is not a league-sponsored sport. The team will need a coach, parent volunteers, and a sponsor at the high school. Anyone interested can contact Tom Southern at tom@tenspeed.com or Ian Breunig at bikerduke400@bcglobal.net.

The PTA meets Monday, May 2, 7 to 9 p.m. in library. The agenda includes a visit from Superintendent Willie Wong and school board members Charlie Blanchard and Miriam Walden, who will discuss the district budget and address concerns of high school parents. Other agenda items include an update on plans for block scheduling, nominations of PTA officers for the next school year.

Albany Middle School

Tickets for this year's school play, "Nightmare On Key Route," are on

sale for \$10 in the office. The play will take place at 7:30 p.m. at the Albany High School Little Theater on Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7, and Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14. Many students enrolled at AMS in the past few weeks are English Language Learners. Volunteers are needed for Beginning ESL small-group support. Anyone interested should contact Audrey Hazen, Beginning ESL teacher, at 510-558-3600, ext. 5104.

The next virtual coffee with Principal Robin Davis is Monday, May 2, 8-8:45 a.m. in Room 116. Those attending the Q&A session are reminded to bring their own coffee.

May 5: PTA meeting, 7 p.m., library.

May 6, 7, 13, 14: AMS school play May

12: Teacher Appreciation Lunch, AMS Library May 27: Seventh grade Renaissance Fair May 31: Memorial Day holiday, no school

Cornell Elementary School

A special thanks to all families that participated in the Spellathon this year. The total raised so far is \$6,000. May 12: PTA meeting, budget teach-in May 26: Open House, 7-8 p.m., Science Fair, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Multi-purpose Room

Marin Elementary School

May 14: Marin PTA Picante dinner, at the school
 May 18: PTA meeting, 8:30 a.m., child-

care by reservation at 510-559-6520

Ocean View Elementary

April 30: Walk-a-Thon
 May 19: PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 May 20: Music concert K-3 and parent volunteer recognition 10:45-11:45 a.m.

AUSD

May 4: SchoolCARE Board meeting, 7 p.m., Room 312, Albany High School
 May 11: Budget Advisory Committee, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Ocean View library

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Course helpful for all levels of mental activity

Q. I have been reading up about your Mind Works classes and am interested in attending, but I am concerned that since I've been "mentally inactive" over the past few years, I may not be able to keep up. How do new students blend in with the "regulars" and is one class per week enough to get back in shape, or should I supplement with something else?

A. Just how "mentally inactive" have you been? To me, complete mental inactivity is simply staring at the wall. Most of us have responsibilities that keep us at least a bit mentally alert. Are you in charge of your life? Do you balance your checkbook? Plan meals? Go shopping? Read a newspaper? Any one of these activities requires using the mind. Granted, you probably are not as sharp as you are capable of being, but as you mentioned, there are ways of overcoming the deficiencies.

The Mind Works program



CONNIE LYNCH
Don't Lose Your Mind

will certainly provide you with challenges that will make you start thinking rigorously again. As for new students versus regulars, I try very hard to keep things simpler for those who have just begun participating. Some of the regulars have been attending Mind Works sessions for many years — one of them for more than 10 years. Needless to say, they have learned a great deal and are able to solve very difficult problems. When a new member arrives, I implement a review program with variations on activities that the experienced members have seen earlier. A review of previous problem types

is good for everyone. New people will find themselves challenged by something new to them, while the regulars can relax a bit, and they often enjoy assisting the beginners to get started with their new learning procedures.

You also expressed concern about whether one class per week was sufficient to rebuild your mental prowess. Well, actually, you will have more than just the class to provide a mental challenge. At one point soon after the Mind Works program began, we were unable to complete a particular problem during class time. Class members suggested that they take it home with them and complete it during the week. In the next class, we reviewed and discussed it. At the end of class time they requested another problem to solve during that week. Thus, the concept of "homework" was born and continues to the present time. The homework will

give you something more to think about during the rest of the week.

If you still find that insufficient for your mental rebuilding plan, there are numerous puzzles and problems in the local newspapers, and in a variety of game books. Personally, I advocate crossword puzzles, beginning with an easy manageable level, and then building as you become more adept. There are also a wide selection of classes in senior centers and adult education facilities. But I hope you will start with Mind Works and build from there.

Don't try to do too much too quickly. You might become discouraged and resume your mental inactivity. That would be a shame!

E-mail inquiries for Kensington resident Connie Lynch to conniemw@aol.com.

Sycamore

FROM PAGE A1

to get to school every morning because he loves her so much," said Diane Cho of Albany. "She's his second-favorite person in the whole world. The first, of course, is his grandmother."

Many of the kids speak Japanese as their first language. Some are children of Japanese businessmen sent to the United States by their companies, or children of visiting scholars and graduate students at UC Berkeley.

"These children will be returning to Japan after a few years here," said Kamada. "It's critical for their well-being that they grow in Japanese language and culture while they're here so they'll fit into the Japanese school system when they return."

Other students come from mixed heritages, with one parent of Japanese descent and the other of European descent. Their folks send them to Sycamore to help them appreciate their Japanese legacy.

"It's really a little bit of Japan, right here in the East Bay," said Amy Ambrose, whose twin daughters, Aya and Kiara Konishi, attended Sycamore last year and are now kindergartners at Montclair Elementary School.

"They're so proud to be Japanese. They're constantly pulling out their Hiragana writing books and teaching the other kids new Japanese words."

"And whenever we go to special events, they insist on wearing their yakata (cotton kimonos) and geta (open-toed wooden shoes), which make a distinctive clicking sound when they walk. Last month we were at the airport, and some Japanese tourists heard them and said, 'Ii oto desune,' which means 'What a beautiful sound!'"



DEAN COPPOLASTAFF

Still other children have no Japanese connection at all; their parents just like the way the school operates.

Part of the school day is spent indoors, playing with blocks, puzzles, games, imaginary play, art, reading, singing, cooking, and science projects. The rest of the day is spent outdoors, riding bikes and scooters and playing in the sandbox and a large climbing structure.

The children gather in a circle twice a day: in the morning for worship — praying, singing hymns, listening to Bible stories — and in the afternoon for stories, songs, finger plays and group discussions.

"If the worship is done in English, the second gathering time is done in Japanese, and vice-versa, so the children are exposed to both languages each day," said Kamada.

They celebrate both American and Japanese holidays and traditions, including Hina-Matsuri (Girls' Day) in March, Tanabata (Star Day) in July, and Shichi-Go-San (literally, 3-5-7) in November.

"That dates back to the time when child mortality was so high," said Kamada. "It was an occasion

for celebration when your child lived to three, five, and seven."

But the tradition the kids like best is Setseban in February, when they stand outside the school and throw beans at it (to frighten away any ogres who might be lurking inside), shouting, "Oni wa soto!" which means "Ogres out!"

The children also take field trips to the zoo, the beach, and

other local fun spots.

"We want them to understand that God is out there in the world, not just inside the church," said pastor Sharon MacArthur. "We want them to look at an animal or tree and say, 'Oh! There He is!' They are our future."

Reach Martin Snapp at 510-262-2787 or msnapp@cctimes.com.

Obituaries and In Memoriam



Edmund John Hill
Teacher and Artist
Born 10/6/42
Died 04/20/05

Edmund John Hill passed away suddenly due to a series of complications following a heart attack. He passed peacefully in the presence of his beloved children, Jessica and Christopher, and his wife, Patricia. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lucy, and father, Noble. He leaves behind a brother, Noble in Riverside, California. Ed is also survived by his first wife and mother to his children, Melva Hill, Walnut Creek, CA and Kay Quiroz, his second wife, Healdsburg, CA, two grandsons, Zachary (5) and Kyle (3) Mahan and seven nieces and nephews.

Edmund John Hill, known as Ed by his family, friends, and students, lived life to the fullest and will be missed every day. Following college at Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington and then earning his Masters of Fine Arts at Otis Art Institute, Ed lived most of his adult life in the Albany, CA area where he taught art classes at Albany High School (AHS) for 31 years. He also coached AHS football and designed the set for the AHS drama productions. He and Patricia recently moved to La Quinta, CA after his retirement and the completion of their gorgeous new dream home. Ed was already active in the La Quinta Art Community and was well known in the Bay Area art scene. Ed became a well known community member wherever he lived with his unabashed enthusiasm and infectious happiness. With his football player size and good looks and personality to match he stood out in any room.

His bohemian friends will have a noticeable void in their lives. Most of all he will be missed by Jessica and Christopher, Patricia, Kay, and Melva. Ed also has extended family in Arizona, California, Minnesota, and New Jersey.

A celebration of his life will take place 2:00 Sunday May 1, 2005 at the Albany High School Gymnasium. Christopher and Jessica request that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to the AHS art program fund to be set up in Ed's memory.

Goodbye, Ed. You know we all love you and we know that you are safe and sound in heaven.

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Events

FROM PAGE A1

four a year and to fewer than 300 people. Two of the events would be limited to 200 people.

An application for event approval must be submitted to the county at least 45 days before the event. An application may also be made for one permit that allows up to four events in one year.

At least 15 days before the county zoning administrator's decision to approve the permit, the applicant and property owners within 300 feet of the venue will receive a notice of a tentative approval.

The Board of Supervisors can stop the approval if it's appealed within 15 days of the mailing notice.

The ordinance includes noise standards the applicant must abide by and the conditions for which a permit can be revoked. It also lists events that don't require a permit, such as funeral processions, demonstrations, weddings, birthday parties and certain types of car wash fund-raising events.

The ordinance received a warmer reaction from some residents than a county fund-raising law discussed in January. Neighbors and the Kensington advisory committee felt that law was too permissive.

Danny Scher, a concert promoter and former vice president for Bill Graham Presents, holds periodic fund-raising events at his

Coventry Road home. The home's backyard has a 250-seat amphitheater and professional sound.

It's raised the ire of some neighbors who have complained that the events are disruptive, bring down property values and are not appropriate for a residential neighborhood.

Scher, who could not be reached for comment, has said that he's being unfairly targeted by the county and raises money for good causes, such as last year's benefit for a Berkeley jazz school.

The events cause minimal neighborhood disturbance, he has said.

Yet the county has fined Scher a total of \$800 because he failed to get proper land-use permits for three concerts in 2004. Future violations will cost Scher \$500 each, said Carlos Baldonado, the director of the county's building inspection department.

The county also has the option of taking Scher to court or placing a lien on his property.

Resident Toni Folger-Brown, a member of the Coventry Neighborhood Group, said she opposes the new ordinance and wants the county to continue fining Scher. She also questioned how the county would enforce the conditions of the permit, such as noise levels.

Under the new ordinance, "what he's doing now will no longer be illegal," Folger-Brown said.

She also criticized Gioia, saying he was responding to pressure from state Senate leader Don Per-

ata. Last year, Perata introduced legislation stating that local governments must allow fund-raising events for nonprofit groups in residential areas, though the law never got off the ground.

"I'm not going to do an ordinance that is going to allow one individual to get special treatment over the community," Gioia said. "This is the best way to prevent a more far-reaching state law."

And what the county has done so far to deal with Scher's events has failed. "The events haven't stopped," Gioia said.

Ray Barraza, the Kensington advisory committee chair, said he and others had concerns about the new ordinance.

He said some people believed it allowed noise levels to go too high. And the permit doesn't take into account the noise and work involved in setting up and taking down the events, which add additional hours.

But he said some residents believe some kind of ordinance is inevitable. And with modifications, the ordinance may work, he said.

"It could be made into an ordinance, which could be made to work for the neighbors of Coventry Grove," said Barraza. "I don't necessarily think it's there at this point."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or at alopez1@cctimes.com.

St. Mary's

FROM PAGE A1

But as a condition of that expansion the school was required to tear down the band pavilion, snack bar and some storage space. A request by the school to keep those facilities went before the planning and zoning commission several times and was approved Tuesday night.

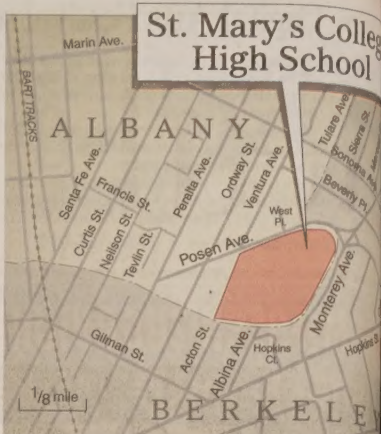
About 30 residents attended the meeting and about a dozen spoke against allowing the approval, said Billy Gross, Albany's associate planner.

"We do want to have a good relationship with our neighbors," said Brother Edmund Larouche, the president of St. Mary's. "It's something we want. So we have to do some work to get there. And it's going to be difficult because it's a question of balancing neighbors' needs with the needs that students and parents present to us."

But Berkeley resident Andrew Watry said addressing neighbors' needs has been problematic in part because the school is located on the southeastern edge of Albany and flush against the Berkeley city limits.

Albany can require the school to forbid parking in the Albany neighborhood, but it's not enforced in Berkeley, where parking problems persist, he said.

DeDiemar said she believed the school hasn't worked well with its neighbors.



"I think they want us to be quiet," she said.

The school intends to submit a master plan and applications to the city so it can expand from 630 to 730 students in order to meet a growing demand, Larouche said. St. Mary's is 142 years old and has been at its present location since 1927.

As a condition of Tuesday night's approval, St. Mary's will be required to have a facilitated meeting between it and residents, before it submits to the city a master plan for expansion, said Gross.

The planning and zoning commission made a final deci-

sion Tuesday night. Staff report on the city at www.albanyca.org meant to be a recommendation to the City Council.

"Apparently the city advised that it would make a decision, so we commission chair Eric Gross said. "Largely because we save the City Council the city of dealing with the council may have to be appealed."

Reach Alan Lopez at 510-243-3578 or alopez1@cctimes.com.

Hill

FROM PAGE A1

Samaritan who would take in kid after kid who was kicked out of other classes. Ed really understood young people and would accept them without prejudice."

Current Albany principal Ron Rosenbaum noted, "He was my daughter's art teacher at AHS. That was her favorite class. She had him for four years. She just loved going to the class."

"Mr. Hill was my role model and my hero," said Albany senior Maya Sanchez-Haller. "He insisted on me following my passion for art and really helped me realize my priorities rather than everyone else's. In a school focused on academics, his example was invaluable for an artist."

Hill inspired a legacy of student-produced art that fills the AHS arts building. Several years ago, when students demonstrated to keep lockers from being placed over the murals in the art building, Hill joined them, holding arms with his young artists during the demonstration.

Phil Wanlin, a longtime friend of Hill's who teaches social stud-

ies at Albany, remembered him as having an "unorthodox free-style spirit," who loved life and had little use for rules and regulations.

"That's what made him special," Wanlin said. "He did things his way. I feel so sad he can't enjoy more time on Earth. He really did a lot for many kids and I never had a cross word with him in 30 years."

Another teacher, Deirdre Shibano, remembered Hill as someone who validated people. "When he talked with you, it was as if there was nothing more important in the world to do, and he treated everyone like that," she said.

A native of Illinois, Hill was raised in Burbank, California where he graduated from John Burroughs High School. He attended Glendale City College and received a bachelor's degree from Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash. In addition to his art studies, Hill played college football. He also earned a master of fine arts degree at Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles.

In 1973 Hill joined the faculty at AHS, where he taught drawing and painting for the next three

decades. In addition to teaching, Hill also coached the Cougar football team for several years.

"You know, he was a jock at heart even though he taught art and everything. He played sports in high school and college," remembered Kermit Bankson, Albany P.E. teacher and wrestling coach. "He was in that type of environment where people are brought together. Athletics are where you make some of your closest friends."

Hill was a student-oriented teacher who would have loved it if every Albany student took his art classes, said Doug Kagawa, counselor and head basketball coach. "He wanted everyone to have the experience of art. He was the kind of guy who saw the best in students regardless of who they were."

"I didn't see Mr. Hill as a teacher, but more of an adult companion, a role model," said senior Kayla Wexler. "He was always happy, with so many stories, which were really life lessons."

After he retired, Hill moved to La Quinta with his wife, Patty. He continued to paint and sell his artwork as well as teach mas-

ter painting classes and lecture at the local high school.

Hill's work was exhibited frequently, most recently at the La Quinta Arts Foundation and The Figurative Gallery in La Quinta. One of his murals is on display on Treasure Island.

A master scenic painter, Hill was responsible for scores of sets for high school and middle school theater productions. Retired art teacher Ellen Goldman noted, "He loved each and every kid at the school. When other teachers had a problem with a student, they were welcome in Ed's class."

On the other hand, Goldman joked, "Ed had a big Coke and a bag of chips every day for breakfast, which probably wasn't the best example for his students."

"I was in band with Mr. Lilienthal, and we used to have shouting contests with Mr. Hill's class throughout the year," said Albany junior Cara Bielass. "The losers had to buy pizza for the winners."

Current athletic director and AHS teacher Debbie Wanlin concluded, "I picture Ed strolling down the halls, with a big smile on his face. He was always smil-

ing. He had a huge presence and really loved the kids. He was just the most warm, friendly, outgoing, caring person, whether you were new to the school or not. He touched everybody from the first day they met him."

Hill is survived by his wife, Patricia, of Indian Wells; a daughter, Jessica Hill Mahan, of Anthem, Ariz., a 1990 AHS graduate; a son, Chris Hill of San Jose, a 1991 AHS graduate; and

two grandchildren, Ryan and Zachary Mahan.

Jessie Acock-Carlisle and Wendy Gu are seniors at Albany High School.

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PHOTOS BY DENNIS EVANOSKY

RAMMED-EARTH COTTAGE, above, graces the backyard of a duplex at 431-433 37th St. in Oakland, right.

Oakland duplex harbors 'green' secret

DENNIS EVANOSKY

SECTION EDITOR
A rammed-earth cottage lies hidden behind a duplex at 431-433 37th St. in Oakland. East Bay artists David Berta and Mary B. White built this earth-toned cottage—a rammed-earth cottage—in 1984.

Berta has put the duplex cottage on the market and the public to have a look. In his book, *Rammed Earth*, David Easton tells us that

rammed earth is nothing more than "instant rock." Anyone who has built with sandstone or any type of sedimentary rock has used "rammed earth." The difference? Easton explains that the earth rammer creates a product in a matter of minutes that it took nature a span of thousands and millions of years to make. Easton, a pioneer in modern-day rammed-earth construction says that prior to arrival of the Spanish in the New World, the Pueblo

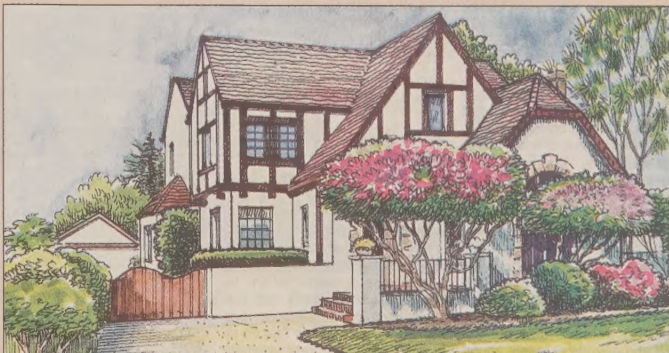
peoples were tamping mud directly into a framework in a manner similar to modern-day concrete work.

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widely in the construction of the California missions.

Indeed, Berta says that she drew her inspiration for the rammed-earth cottage partially from her visits to the California missions as a child.

Easton says that the "ecological reawakening" in the 1970s led to a "handful of architects, contractors

and owner-builders rediscovering rammed earth." He says that in recent years, a growing interest in "green" architecture is offering some hope for a revival of "earth-building."

"With awareness of peak oil and rising fuel (including natural gas) prices the importance of building energy efficient and sustainable

homes is becoming painfully apparent," said Berta. "With Earth Day last weekend and the Green Homes Tour tomorrow 'green' building is a 'current event.'"

For thousands of years, people throughout the world have built earth homes, partly because earth

See HOME, Page B2

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Berkeley Hills. Traditional brown shingle exterior gives way to spacious light contemporary interior with beautiful finishes. Four bedrooms, three baths with filtered views and lovely yards.
Carol Robbiano 531-7000 x292

EIGHT UNITS-CHINATOWN \$1,575,000
Oakland. Location, location! Six plex plus duplex. Close to BART. Low rents.
Catherine Vallee 531-7006 x258



STATELY ROCKRIDGE HOME \$1,025,000
Rockridge. Elegant public rooms with mahogany trim. Four plus bedrooms, two and a half baths. Master suite with dressing room. Wood paneled den. Roomy kitchen with built-ins seating area. Bay, bridge, city views.
Stan Hammond 531-7000 x246

VICTORIAN 4-PLEX \$895,000
Edge of Jack London Square. Off Broadway. Excellent visibility to auto & pedestrian traffic. Near Oakland courthouse, OPD & transit. Needs some finish work.
Frank Hennefer 531-7000 x235

MIX USED COMMERCIAL \$895,000
2 Commercial plus 4 second floor units. Plans at city for additional commercial store. Excellent income potential.
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VICTORIAN OFFICE BUILDING \$795,000
Oakland. Near Jack London Square and San Francisco Ferry, this upgraded building is great for owner occupant or investor.
Anne Bruff 531-7006 x283

LAND

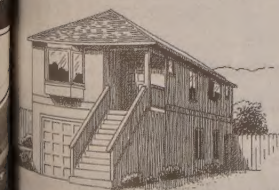
BAY VIEW DEVELOPMENT \$828,000
Located across from Sibley Park on Thorndale Dr. FOUR contiguous lots suited for top end homes. Possible financing for 2-3 yrs w/option for 3rd.
Gerald Cheney 531-7000 x287

NEW LISTING-MONTCLAIR \$230,000
Just below Skyline Blvd. near Shepherd Canyon. Gentle upslope w/utilities in street. Area of \$1.5m+ homes.
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MONTCLAIR LOT/BLDG PLANS \$199,000
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Home

FROM PAGE B1

is an inexhaustible material. The cottage's thick earth walls create a comfortable interior climate.

According to Berteau, many traditional people have abandoned ancient building techniques thinking that concrete is more modern.

"We built the rammed-earth cottage to explore and to demonstrate the feasibility of actually building an alternative earth structure in the inner city," Berteau said.

The home's passive solar design and foot-thick earth walls make the home energy efficient.

"Plus it's an exploration of 'small is beautiful' as a design philosophy. The cottage's 360 square feet feel spacious," Berteau said.

"When we built the house we intended to make clear that there is a choice of building materials. Building with rammed earth reduces the pressure on our ancient forests by using less wood."

Berteau went to Nuns Canyon Quarry near Glen Ellen in Sonoma County to find earth for the cottage.

"We sifted through and chose the proper kind of earth — earth that gives the house its color," she said. "Part of the appeal of this material is its aesthetics," said Holly Bornstein in the Northern California Sun.

"We combined this earth with 10 percent cement to improve water resistance and provide additional strength to the walls."

The result is moistened, shoveled into forms and compacted, either pneumatically or with hand tampers.

"These walls are at least a foot thick and provide excellent sound insulation," said Berteau. "Once sealed, walls like these will never need painting, nor will they ever fall prey to termites, beetles, fire or rot."

Berteau added windows, a skylight and a sliding glass door to allow natural light to open the space. She built high ceilings so the cottage wouldn't feel small.

The cottage has a workable kitchen, which Berteau describes as



ABOVE RIGHT: Materials used in surprising ways: A wall sconce fashioned from sheet metal

ABOVE: The foot-thick earthen walls help cool the home

RIGHT: The view to the patio shows the cottage's clerestory window adding extra light

a "tight work triangle with lots of food-preparation area."

When she designed the cottage, she sought an unconventional feel — a mixture of residential and industrial, a live-work studio with materials used in surprising way. She wanted to demonstrate that an affordable, contemporary rammed-earth cottage could be built in the inner city, in earthquake country.

She has certainly succeeded. Her creation nourishes the eye: Rich, earth textures contrast with smooth, soft-edged white walls.

"This is the last chance for the community to experience this wonderful little gem before it is sold," she said.

It is a worth-while experience.



PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL

Vital Statistics

What: A 1902 Colonial Revival duplex at 431-433 37th Street, featuring a rammed earth cottage built on the property.

Size: A 2,800-square-foot duplex and a 360-square-foot earth cottage

Bedrooms: Duplex: three plus; cottage: one

Baths: Duplex: two-plus; cottage: one

Price: \$787,000

Listing agent: Diane Ohlsson, Prudential California Realty, 868-1515; e-mail: realdi@earthlink.net; take a virtual tour: www.rammedearthcottage.com.

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PHISTICATED, BRAND-NEW at 3052 Guido in Oak-wood Heights offers a serene setting and

blends the elegance of bamboo floors and a spacious open living room with a wall of windows to enjoy the views plus deck a wood

burning fireplace with gas starter. There's a separate formal dining room and a kitchen with granite tops and maple cabinets, a master bedroom with a spectacular bath complete with jetted tub and solar tubes.

A family room is off the kitchen and there's a bedroom that could easily be used as a den or fourth bedroom, along with a guest bath. Upstairs are three good size bedrooms, two baths and the laundry.

The almost level lot has been landscaped and there is a patio area off the family room. Imagine entertaining on the patio or relaxing in the privacy of your lovely back yard. Price: \$1,075,000

Listing agent: Donna Conroy, Coldwell Banker, Oakland, 510-339-4723, photos at www.donnaconroy.com, www.realtor.com or www.camoves.com/donna.conroy.

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608 Adams Street, Albany

RECENTLY SOLD. First time on the market in over sixty years. A charming (circa 1920) sun-filled bungalow. Beautifully updated kitchen and bath, hardwood floors, fresh paint, separate garage and a wonderful rear garden.

Originally offered at \$535,000

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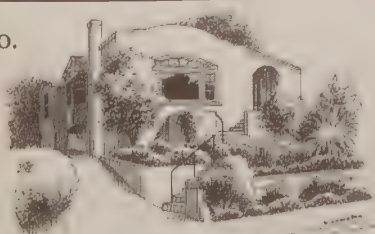
COMING SOON. Completely hidden from view are these two separate buildings on one parcel, zoned multi-use and currently used as live/work. The front house is light, bright and spacious. Previously two bedrooms, it has been reconfigured into one bedroom with large open spaces. The rear house has been completely updated, separate sleeping loft, great light, new kitchette, new bath, wide open spaces suitable for artist, musician or?

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291 Adams Street, Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Great location near Lake Merritt. This 1920's traditional is beautifully preserved and carefully maintained. Exceptional gumwood, beveled glass built-ins. 2BR/1+BA, sunny updated kitchen and garage.

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'Secret Gardens' tour on Sunday

PARK DAY SCHOOL

Woodland creeks, tropical jungles, outdoor rooms and Mayan ruins are among the spectacular gardens featured in the 19th annual Secret Gardens of the East Bay tour. Known as the "Best of the Bay," the tour features 10 "secret gardens," each unique, unusual—and inspiring—to gardeners of every level. Tucked in the hills around Berkeley, Oakland, Piedmont and Alameda, the gardens chosen this year include a Hawaiian paradise, a fairy tale woodland glen, a Mayan-themed hideaway and an outdoor modern art installation displayed among rare specimen plants.

As they tour these striking out-

door spaces, visitors will be able to meet and talk with many of the noted designers who created this year's featured gardens.

The artists include Shirley Watts, Hugo Larman, Tom Nelson and Randy Bolin, as well as talented designers from Feyerband and Madden, Goodman Landscaping Design, Enchanting Planting and Planet Horticulture, among others.

Tickets are \$45 per person and include a collectible catalog with detailed descriptions of each garden, a map, and directions for the self-guided tour.

Ticketed visitors will also be admitted to lectures by garden design experts, held at lunch time on the beautifully landscaped grounds of

Park Day School. Gourmet box lunches are available and must be pre-ordered for \$10 each.

See TOUR, Page B4



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*5.674% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$399,650 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. 10/1 adjustable rate mortgage is fixed for the first 10 years and then adjusted to market rate every year thereafter. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$399,650 is approximately \$2,014 (subjected to maximum loan-to-value of 80%; homebuyer's insurance required).
**5.315% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$359,650 loan amount + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 15 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount is approximately \$2,868. Homeowner's insurance required.
***5.858% estimated loan percentage rate is based on \$500,000 + 1 pt. loan fee. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment is \$2,918. Homeowner's insurance is required.

Above programs are based on primary, single family residences, townhouses, and condominiums only. No prepayment penalty required. Cash out allowed up to 75% loan-to-value. Other restrictions may apply. All credit applications are subject to credit qualifications and underwriting requirements. Rates as of 4/26/05 are subject to change without notice.

JUST LISTED



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Open Sunday 2-5pm



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Special features not to be missed:

Architectural details throughout
Handsome fireplace with built-ins in living room
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A look around the real estate community

News and information for and about the area real estate community and affiliated industries.

FOR THE PUBLIC

Home Sales

According to the National Association of Realtors existing home sales rose to near-record levels in last month. Those sales were the third highest level on record. NAR's chief economist said, "There's no question there is a strong demand for housing from a growing population." Indicators suggest this spring is a great time to put a house on the market or go house hunting.

Design-Remodel

Attend "Remodeling Your Home: From Ideas To Reality". This Piedmont Adult School workshop is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, May 14. Instructor Mercedes Corbell of Corbell Design + Architecture will discuss the practical aspects of remodeling. Call for enrollment information at 510-594-6716 or visit www.piedmontadultschool.org.

FREE CLASSES

Buyer Assist. Center in Oakland offers an information session, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Monday, May 9. Learn about a new program that could make you a homeowner. Reserve a seat by calling 510-832-6925 ext. 100.

Teacher Assist

Gain information targeted to help teachers as first-time homebuyers. Increase your HKQ (Home Buying Knowledge Quotient) by attending "Buying Your First Home: Focus Teachers", in Oakland, Saturday, May 7. Call 510-865-4192 ext. 304.

First Timers

"How To Buy Your First Home In Oakland" is Saturday, May 7, at Montclair Better Homes on Mountain Boulevard. Get the information needed to have an edge over other buyers. Attendance is free. Call 510-899-6368.

Top Dollar

Attend the informational "Home-Sellers Weekly Roundtable", at Pacific Union in Oakland. Learn what's needed to sell your home for top dollar. Join the free discussion Tuesday, May 3, in Oakland. Call 510-910-5757.

Investors

Bay Area Investors Educational Services of Oakland offers a panel discussion on the benefits of and strategies for investing in real estate. The two-part program is for investors and homebuyers. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 3. Call for ticket and location information at 510-339-9014.

Home Keys

"Keys To Homeownership" is a workshop presented by Bette Barr of Alameda Realty and Anton Mares of Chase Manhattan Mortgage. Learn about no down payment programs, maximizing your buying power and strategies for homebuying. Register for a future workshop via e-mail to AntonH.Mares@JPMChase.com.

Safety Tips

PG&E offers many home safety tips and emergency preparedness. You'll find checklists and other useful information. Have the kids check out the safety games on the site to learn and have fun. Go visit at PGE.com/safety.

SOPHIA HOUSE

The OAR Housing Opportunity Committee is holding a fundraiser raffle to benefit the Sophia House Project. Sophia House cares for homeless mothers and their children. Buy a ticket for a chance to win one of two PalmOne "650" Treos palm pilots. Winners will be announced Wednesday, June 1 and Friday, July 1. Contact Committee chair Georgia Richardson of Richardson Real Estate at 510-914-2662 or OAR executive VP Colleen Porter for tickets.

VOLUNTEER CALL

The Oakland Association of Realtors sends out a call for volunteers. This year's NAR Habitat project is in Oakland. Build Dates are held monthly, with the first to be Wednesday, May 4 and the first Wednesday of the month thereafter. Six associations are involved in building this home including the Alameda and Berkeley AORs. Call 510-836-3000 to help.

CALENDARS

Mark those calendars for four upcoming events. The Alameda Association of Realtors and the Inform Committee offer the first one. The 2005 Legal Update Luncheon with Gov Hutchinson is Thursday, May 5. For ticket information contact Kristin McMahan of AAR at 510-523-7229.

Find out what the hot legislative issues are for this year. The California Association of Realtors Senior Vice President for Governmental Affairs Alex Creel is the featured speaker at a Region 6 breakfast, Tuesday, May 17. Alameda, Bay East, Berkeley and Oakland AORs in cooperation with the East Bay Women's Council of Realtors jointly sponsor the event. Call 510-836-3000 for additional information.

Professional Standards Grievance Training with Susie Kater from CAR is May 19 and May 20. Call the Alameda, Berkeley, Oakland or West Contra Costa AORs to register.

On Monday, May 23 AAR hosts the 2005 Region 5 and 6 "Visit With the President". CAR Pres-

See REID, Page B5



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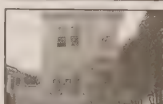
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- 317 Sand Beach Rd., Alameda
Sold in 23 days, \$40,000 higher than asking

Seller Saved \$26,350

Seller Saved \$27,150

2545 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda / www.HUSAlamedahomes.com

greet attendees at a Leadership

Tour

FROM PAGE B3

foods, garden-related wares and the opportunity, once again, to visit

with professional garden designers. The tour takes place rain or shine this Sunday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Proceeds from the tour and the marketplace are critical to the

scholarship and awards programs of Park Day School, a dependent K-6 school at St. in Oakland. To purchase tickets, call 510-653-0317 or visit www.SecretGardens.org.

JUST LISTED

Open Sunday
2:00 - 4:00 pm



6300 - 2 bedroom, 1 bath
6302 - 1 bedroom, 1 bath

Well maintained and complete
a clear pest report
This is a good looking house

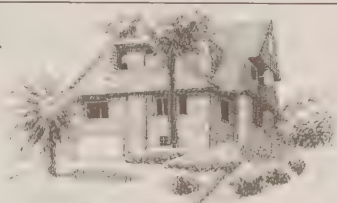
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644 Chetwood Street, Grand Lake

RECENTLY SOLD. Grand five-unit Victorian, lovingly maintained on a quiet lined street in the Grand Lake neighborhood. Large sunny lot with lawns and gardens. Perfect for owner occupancy! Owner's unit has two bedrooms and one half baths, fireplace & hardwood floor. Original details intact.

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Avoiding readed real estate lawsuits

How to protect yourself
when selling your home

Selling your home for a high price is wonderful as long as you can bank the proceeds. Unfortunately, a certain number of people end up in lawsuits involving real estate transactions. One way to avoid a lawsuit is to learn from other's mistakes. Here are some problems you can easily



DIAN HYMER

It's a good idea to spruce your home up before putting it on the market. But, if the cosmetic enhancements disguise property defects, be sure that you disclose them to prospective buyers. Disclosure laws vary from one state to the next. However, the trend nationally is toward requiring sellers to disclose material facts about property when they sell. A material fact is something that would affect a buyer's decision to buy, or the price they'd be willing to pay. Sellers who disclose material facts are less likely to be sued for nondisclosure or concealment. For instance, let's say that your house has a leak and stained the living room ceiling. To cover the eyesore, you painted the ceiling before marketing the property. If you disclose this upfront, the buyer has the opportunity to investigate the problem before closing a sale. This way, he can make an informed decision with full knowledge of the situation.

Sellers are prone to overestimating the size of their home. And, in most cases, bigger means more money when you sell. However, misrepresenting the square footage of a home or the land on which it sits can get you into hot water. Recently, sellers told their real estate agent that their house had 6,000 square feet. An appraiser's report on the property indicated the square footage was little more than half this amount. The sellers insisted on going with the higher figure because they had renovated a basement area, which accounted for the extra square footage. But this work was done without building permits and

See HYMER, Page B8

Lead

Page B4

Jim Hamilton will meet and greet attendees at a Leadership luncheon and an afternoon reception. Questions? Call 510-523-7229.

Associations

The Real Estate Association members asked to save a date. Legislation in Sacramento is Wednesday, June 8. Bus trips, luncheons and tours are planned. Contact your local association for additional information.

Realtor University

Education for real estate professionals doesn't stop when they receive their licenses. It is an ongoing process. The National Association of Realtors provides online education, with Realtor University. It offers over 100 hours of estate and professional development classes. RUO allows agents learn what they want, where they want, at home or in the office. Students can test-drive a course before registering. For available classes, check out www.realtoruniversity.org.

Our Home Team Advantage

A new member, Wendy Mari- She joins her husband Mario and son of Gallagher & Lindsey Realtors. Team Advantage is a group of real estate professionals in the area. The group offers seminars for homebuyers and sellers. Who? This columnist was able to work with so many real estate professionals at the recent Tech Expo — well — there are just too many to mention them all. But it was good to see old friends and make new ones. I can say it was a "re-vent" as promised.

Announce your news item in the Bay Area. If you send it to me, I'll publish it in two weeks before the event. Send an email to news@bayareapost.com. Fax it to me at 510-441-7197.

Hills Newspapers: Your number one source for East Bay real estate information.

The GRUBB Co.



2177 Trefulgar Place, Montclair

RECENTLY SOLD. I represented the sellers. This contemporary with in-law apartment sold quickly, well above the asking price with multiple offers. The sellers are very pleased. Originally offered at \$729,000



MICHAEL FRIEDMAN
OFFICE: 339.0400/265
mfriedman@grubbco.com
FriedmanRealtor.com
GRUBBCO.COM

The GRUBB Co.



4404 Reinhardt Drive, Oakland

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Sophisticated and lovely three bedroom, two bath home. Spacious light-filled rooms and wonderful floor plan. Great entertaining spaces and indoor-out to a beautiful garden flow. Redwood Heights Elementary. Offered at \$689,000



ANNE VAN DYKE
339.0400/399
avandyke@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for
Photo Tours
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Stunning 4 year old contemporary in Claremont Hills on rarely available FLAT 1/2 ACRE PANORAMIC VIEW LOT. Over 5,100 sq. ft., 4+ bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 car garage. **\$3,225,000**

Call **ELA STRONG**, Broker-Associate
(510) 888-6383
elsa.strong@prurealty.com
virtual tour: <http://www.obeo.com/169081>



555 10th Street #102

Open Sunday, May 1, 2-5 PM

JUST LISTED!!!

\$379,000

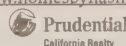
Sparkling Condo
Historical Old Oakland
Perfectly Located!



Adrienne Nash, CRS
Oakland Native, Oakland/Berkeley Specialist
510-763-4060

- Sunny 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo.
- Built as condo in 1998, with in-unit washer & dryer.
- All windows look to lovely park-like courtyard garden.
- Clubhouse, good parking and storage.
- Near BART, Farmers' Market, Club One, Restaurants, etc.

Visual Tour + full MLS:
www.homesbynash.com



april.com

It's just one click to a complete list of
virtually all homes for sale in the Bay Area.



OAKLAND

\$2,299,000

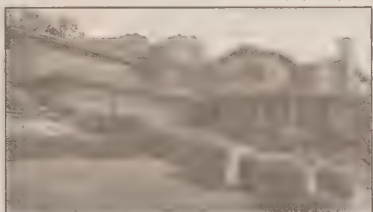


Magnificent San Francisco Views

This impressive 5+bd/4ba upper Rockridge home with large elegant rooms has stunning panoramic views of downtown San Francisco, the bay and bridges. High-end amenities throughout.

ALAMO

\$1,849,000



Pristine Craftsman-style Home

Lovely home with 5 bedrooms plus office and playroom. Quality finishes, a beautiful decor, lovely views, privacy and a fabulous pool with elevated spa make this the home to see.

LAFAYETTE

\$1,800,000



New Listing

Beautiful 0.33+/- acre lot of land and complete, custom build out by R & J Construction Company. Lot set on cul-de-sac in lovely, Tahoe setting. Please call for more details.

LAFAYETTE

\$1,495,000



Outstanding Lafayette Home

5bd/3.5ba home with open floor plan, walls of windows, vaulted ceilings, designer gourmet kitchen, large media room, 4FPs, fabulous guest quarters, sport court. Cul-de-sac location near trails. Easy commute.

OAKLAND

\$1,350,000



Casual California Living

Montclair-Piedmont Pines with City Views. Charming updated 4bd/4ba home, appealing family room, large workshop, beautiful garden and panoramic San Francisco views from two decks.

OAKLAND

\$899,000



Piedmont Pines Contemporary

Elegant and dramatic. Beautiful hardwood accents LR, FR and great room. Designer granite kitchen and luxurious MBD with view of Twin Peaks. With 3bd/2.5ba, 2-car garage, great light, privacy, yard and garden.

LIVERMORE

\$619,000



Don't Miss This Opportunity

Beautifully updated 3bd/2ba rancher. Huge family room with vaulted ceiling, 2 fireplaces and hardwood floors. Entertain in the tree-shaded yard with exquisite stamped free-form patio.

EMERYVILLE

\$399,000



New Listing

Hip and trendy loft in David Baker warehouse conversion. 2-story, light and bright. Great location and great opportunity. Located near Pixar and Emeryville shops.

OAKLAND

\$Price Upon Request



Coming Soon

Enchanting 3+bd/1.5ba prairie-style home in the desirable Haddon Hill neighborhood. Gleaming with natural light this home is spacious with a wonderful floor plan. Views of downtown. Easy commute.

ORINDA 2 Theatre Square 925.258.1111

MONTCLAIR 6116 LaSalle Avenue 510.899.8000



APR. COUNTIES: Santa Clara | San Mateo | San Francisco | Alameda | Contra Costa | Monterey | Santa Cruz

House hunting this weekend? Turn to Hills Newspapers Real Estate & Home section first

RECENT SALES

ROCKRIDGE AREA

5707 Ayala Avenue
Originally Offered at
\$639,000

Represented the Buyers

5885 Chabot Court
Originally Offered at
\$789,000

Represented the Buyers

I believe that every real estate transaction is a unique and complex process. Whether you are looking to purchase your first home, or move on to your next home, I offer my clients a full line of services aimed at producing the specific results they are looking for.

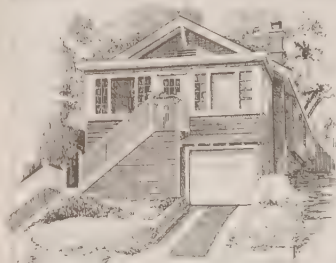
If you are thinking of buying or selling a home, and are looking for an agent committed to your individual needs, please call me for a consultation.

Prudential
California Realty

Jeff Roberts
Claremont Office
Prudential California Realty
510-466-5446
Jeff.Roberts@Prurealty.com



9 CAMBRIDGE WAY, PIEDMONT OPEN SUNDAY, 2 - 4:30



- ❖ Two sun-drenched bedrooms and two "plus" rooms
- ❖ Gourmet kitchen with granite countertops
- ❖ Lovely backyard with flagstone patio and level lawn
- ❖ Located on a quiet, tree-lined street, just steps away from Beach Elementary School

OFFERED AT \$725,000
photo tour at
walkersrealty.com



Terri Bates Walker
Real Estate Broker
510-282-4420

6519 Oakwood Dr.

Open Sunday, May 1st, 2-5 PM

\$789,000
Striking Simplicity
Montclair
Lots of Room to Roam



Adrienne Nash, CRS
Oakland Native, Oakland/Berkeley Specialist
510-763-4060

- Move right into this huge & dramatic home built in 1985.
- Sparkling 4+ bed, 3.5 ba home w/some important upgrades.
- Private attached quarters for au-pair, guests or relatives.
- Great features: secluded decks, courtyard, 2 fireplaces, etc.
- Huge lot; many native plants, plus level yard, hot tub, garden.
- Oversize 2+ car garage with workshop & storage areas.

Visual Tour + full MLS:
www.homesbynash.com

Prudential
California Realty



www.3112birdsallavenue.com Offered at \$490,000



Maxwell Park Craftsman
Clean and cute as a button
Plantation shutters throughout
Spacious updated kitchen
Granite counters
2 bedrooms & 1 bath
Built-ins fireplace laundry

Open Sunday May 1st
2 to 4:30 PM

Katie O'Shea
510 393-KATE
www.katieoshea.com
home@katieoshea.com



Prudential
California Realty

The GRUBB Co.



952 Kingston Avenue, Piedmont

COMING SOON. Wonderful Piedmont Craftsman on magical street with 3BR, 2BA, updated kitchen/family room, upper & lower decks, European garden with fountain. Many upgrades. Stylish professional decorating.

Offered at \$925,000



NANCY LEHRKIND
339.0400/246
nlehrkind@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

Visit GRUBBCO.COM for
Photo Tours
of this and other current listings.

A sampling of our current listings:



Pine Lake
3 bedroom, 2 bath beauty built in 1940
is close to shopping, transportation, Stern
Grove, Lake Merced and the Ocean.
Large living room, formal dining room,
eat-in kitchen that looks out on the
center patio.
\$749,000



Oakland
Craftsman style home currently used as
a duplex. 4 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths up;
1 bedroom, 1 bath down.
Approx. 2,900 sq. ft. of living space.
\$865,000



Anza Vista
Elegant corner home on a double lot.
4 bedrooms, 4 baths on 2 levels.
Eat-in kitchen. 2 fireplaces, refinished
inlaid floors. 2 car side-by-side garage.
Close to Fillmore shopping, Japantown and
walking distance to Golden Gate Park.
\$1,550,000

Prudential
California Realty



Jim Hedge
manager
415-762-9399

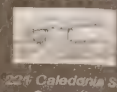


241 Market St
San Francisco



2200 Union St
San Francisco

and our newest location



224 Calaveras St
Sausalito

The GRUBB Co



30 Overlake Court, Montclair

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4:30. A bright and secluded contemporary in Montclair with designer features. Hardwood floors. Huge enclosed patio for outdoor/indoor entertaining and play. Great property!

Offered at \$795,000



TRICIA SWIFT
339.0400/333
tsswift@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

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of this and other current listings

STATELY HADDON HILL TRADITIONAL

NEW ON THE MARKET
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SUNDAY MAY 1, 2:00 - 5:00



852 MacArthur Boulevard

This sun filled 3+ bedroom 1 1/2 bath "Grand Dame" features a formal dining room, breakfast room, a huge basement with loads of storage, large eat-in kitchen and oversized living room with lovely fireplace and beautiful built-in. Conveniently located close to Lakeshore and Grand Avenue shops, restaurants and the express bus to San Francisco.

Offered at \$550,000



Terry Kulka
510-339-4789
terrykulka@att.net

Over 300 Homes Sold-Experience Counts!

COLDWELL BANKER

Residential Brokerage

JOAQUIN MILLER, OAKLAND

OPEN
SUNDAY
1-5 PM



3052
Butters Drive
New Listing!

Located right by the park, this level in 3+ bedroom 2.5 baths home features a tranquil setting and invites one to enjoy the great floor plan designed for easy living. Desirable floor plan has 3 bedrooms on the main level including a large country kitchen and big living room with fireplace. Downstairs has a generous size family room, additional room for office or possible fourth bedroom, bath and laundry. Go outside and fall in love with the beautiful yard with pretty maple trees, a separate small cottage for workshop and a great wine storage space. Feel like you've gone to the country, yet you're just minutes to the Village, schools and transportation. This is not to be missed!

Offered at \$785,000



Donna Conroy 510-339-4723
View photos @ www.donnaconroy.com

COLDWELL BANKER

Residential Brokerage

NEW LISTING

PIEDMONT SIDE OF MONTCLAIR
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC MAY 1, 2:00 TO 5:00

5926 Johnston Drive

The beautifully landscaped front yard, fruit trees, level backyard and lovely view of the hills compliment this spacious Piedmont side of Montclair home. The flexible floor plan featuring hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, big family room home office and more make this the perfect home for today's home buyer.

Offered at \$750,000



Terry Kulka
510-339-4789
terrykulka@att.net

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Residential Brokerage

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B22.

132 Bonita Ave., Piedmont Open Sunday, 2-5



\$1,948,000

Jerilynn Babington
925-253-4601
510-547-1615
510-421-9000

www.discriminatinghomes.com

OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY

NEW ON THE MARKET

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SUN., MAY 1, 2:00 - 5:00

5801 Ross Street

Designed in 1929 by W.W. Dixon and built by the father of the "Modest Mansion" Ernest Urch, this storybook style 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath home overflows with charm. Carved wooden doors and etched glass French doors with scenes depicting the covered wagons of the American West. Romeo and Juliet balcony with the original wrought iron balustrade overlooks the spacious living room with its dramatic vaulted wood-beamed ceilings. Located in the heart of Rockridge close to BART and College Ave. shops.

Offered at \$995,000



Residential Brokerage

Terry Kulka
510-339-4789
terrykulka@att.net

Over 300 Homes Sold-Experience Counts!

REDWOOD HEIGHTS - OAKLAND

3052 Guido

Stunning new Contemporary with Views!

Located in desirable Redwood Heights this fabulous 4 bedrooms 2.5 baths home was built in 2005 and boasts VIEWS towards the BAY. Tranquil setting invites one to enjoy the great floor plan designed for easy yet sophisticated living. Rich bamboo floors make a great statement. A large cook's kitchen/family room combo opens to pretty back yard. Open floor plan with built in bookshelves, formal dining and living room and fireplace opens to a deck. A lavish master suite looks towards the Bay and has an ample walk in closet and large master bath complete with whirlpool tub and stall shower. This is truly a STUNNING home!

Offered at \$1,079,000

Donna Conroy 510-339-4723
View photos @ www.donnaconroy.com



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

JUST SOLD - PIEDMONT



127 Wildwood Gardens

4+ bedroom, 2-1/2 bath traditional with the ambience of a European villa & privacy on approximately 1/3 acre. Dian Hymer represented the seller.

Offered at \$2,650,000

Call Dian for more information about the exclusive Coldwell Banker Previews marketing program.

Dian Hymer, CRS
Associate Broker
510-339-4777
Photo Tours At:
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Previews International



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

ARTISTIC - ARCHITECTURAL BERKELEY HILLS RETREAT



1171
Cragmont
Avenue

The home has four bedrooms and three baths. There are two separate bedroom suites - the master bedroom with built in king-size bed, has a gas lit fireplace, a separate office and a bath on its own level. The kitchen has built-in breakfast nook. The basement has an upper section used as a gym, and a fully prepared darkroom/laundry below. The adjacent upbuilt lot to the north is also separately for sale for \$350,000.

Residence Offered at \$1,200,000 • Lot offered at \$350,000



KIM & BARBARA MARIENTHAL
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www.marienthal.com



NEW LISTING

15022 Broadway Terrace, Oakland
Open Sunday 1:30-4:30

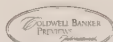
MONTCLAIR CHARMER

A truly charming home set high in the Oakland Hills with spectacular views of the Golden Gate Bridge, S.F. skyline, Lake Merritt & beyond. 3 spacious BRs, 2.5 BTHs, apt 2680 s.f., eat-in kitchen with sunny patio outside for morning breakfast! Large family room with wonderful views; light/bright master suite with glorious views. Loads of storage space, unfinished basement.

\$949,000



Jerilynn Babington
925-253-4601
510-547-1615
510-421-9000

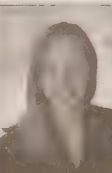


www.discriminatinghomes.com

Fabulous Fernwood - Open Sunday

Storybook English Tudor located on large lot with babbling creek. Built-in 1937, w/ rich architectural details + updated kitchen. 3++ bedrooms, 4 baths & great indoor-outdoor living.

Offered at \$925,000



Darcy Diamantine
Senior Sales Consultant
510-339-4767 direct line
darcy@darcyshome.com

1524 Fernwood Drive



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

MONTCLAIR



5747 Grisborne Ave, Montclair

Just off Thornhill Rd in Montclair. The home has many updates including Kitchen and Bathrooms. L.R., D.R. and 2 BR's with HWF. Large FR w/FP. There is a non conforming second building in the rear.
\$699,000



Julie Joyce
Realtor
510-339-4725 Direct



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



1866 Tiffin Road

Built in 1948, this beautifully well maintained & charming home is located in one of Oakland's most desirable locations. This stunning 3BD/2BA home has a traditional floor plan. With access to the yard from kitchen or dining room this delightful home is great for entertaining! Convenient to the Glenview and Montclair Village shopping areas, Sausal Creek and Diamond Park... it's a great place to call home!

Offered at \$649,000



Nancy Maloney
www.nancymaloney.net
email: N.Maloney@comcast.net
510-387-4849 Cell



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

JUST LISTED



Rockridge ~ 4626 Jacobus Ave.

This charming home with its bay view is practically hidden from the street. One can enjoy the view from the spacious living room and the rear deck. It has three bedrooms, two baths, an eat-in kitchen/family room, fireplace, formal dining room, side patio, yard, hardwood flooring and a garage. A must see!

Offered at \$749,000



NANCY DICKEY, CRS
Certified Residential Specialist
510-339-4716 Direct line
www.nancydickey.com
Email: dickey@dsp.com



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

californiamoves.com

Hymer

FROM PAGE B5

was, not legal living space. The buyer, who purchased the property, sued the seller and won. The jury found that the sellers and their real agent were guilty of false advertisement and fraudulent inducement, for which punitive damages were awarded.

HOUSE SELLER TIP: There are

ways to describe a home other than quoting square footage. One way is to state the room count, including the number of legal bedrooms and bathrooms. But, if you're intent on advertising square footage, make sure that you round down, not up, and indicate that the figure is approximate.

Also include the source of your information, such as the assessor's records or an appraiser's report. It's wise to include a disclaimer in your representation, which states that the

square footage may not be accurate and will not be verified. This gives notice to the buyers that if the square footage is important to their decision to buy, they should investigate this on their own.

Sellers can also get into trouble when they conceal inspection reports. One seller obtained a pest report before marketing his home. The report recommended more work than the seller had anticipated. So, he ordered a second inspection from a different company.

The second report was not as thorough, and therefore was not as detrimental. When the seller marketed his home, he gave the second report to the buyers. The buyers later became aware of the first report, sued the seller, and won.

THE CLOSING: It's usually far less costly to deal with defects before closing than it is to battle it out in court after closing.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at Dian@Dianhymer.com.

CONTACT THE REAL ESTATE EDITOR

510-748-1655

OR E-MAIL

DEVANOSKY@CCTIMES.COM

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ljessup@cctimes.com

1815 Clemens Road, Oakland

Open Sunday, May 1, 1:00-5:00 p.m.



CHARMING ENGLISH STYLE HOME

Absolutely charming home in sunny Oakland! Lovely 2+ bd. 1ba home features a classic floor plan & surprisingly spacious rooms. Beautiful hardwood flrs, graceful arches, original detail, formal living rm w/ cathedral ceilings & fireplace, formal dining, lg eat-in kitchen, lg laundry rm, updated bathroom, garage, backyard. Plus room on lower level is DSL/cable ready-perfect for home office. Won't last long! JUST WAY TOO CUTE!

Offered at \$599,000

Beatrix Kasten, Realtor
510.899.6366 desk

www.1815ClemensRd.com
510.872.6899 cell

Montclair
Better Homes
REALTY



NEW OAKLAND LISTING



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4
3202 Champion St.
cross street is Pleasant St.

Craftsman Shingle. Bright and sunny 2BR 1BA, formal dining room, hardwood flrs, all the charm of 1913 and conveniences of today. Separate in-law. Lovely yard. Walk to everything. EZ commute

Offered for \$489,000

Valerie Pritchard, Agent
415-298-5911

The GRUBB Co.

NEW LISTING



18 Manor Drive, Piedmont

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Feast your eyes on this gracious three +++ bedroom, two + bath Mediterranean with sunny level garden and private patio located in one of the East Bay's most coveted neighborhoods.

Offered at \$1,395,000



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NEW LISTING



6885 Oakwood Drive, Montclair

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Large, dramatic Contemporary home with pastoral views and room for all! Four bedrooms, three and one half baths, office, formal room and soaring vaulted ceilings in the living and dining rooms.

Offered at \$719,000



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the independent broker you already
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510.339.2121 Phone

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Julia Demeter



Lisa Bowman



Ray Fry



Pat McGlynn



Marty Appel



Greg Herman



Bob Rana



Zachary Griffin



Rhoda Pappas



Mitch Grassi

Don't miss the Weekly Sales in the Auto Section on page D4.

Over Four Hundred Homes On-line.

www.400homes4sale.com

Homes-Link Real Estate

Beautiful Lot In Montclair



Bay & canyon views from this beautiful lot located on a quiet cul-de-sac in a wonderful, established neighborhood. Included are design reviewed plans for a 3800+ SF home, tree removal permit, soils report & more! \$399,000

510/526-4336

Street, Berkeley 94707

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HILLS NEWSPAPERS REAL ESTATE & HOME



Real Estate & Home

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]
Open Home Guide See what's on sale in your neighborhood [B8]

Now is the time to prepare for the inevitable Big One

Victorian Architecture at its finest

Craftsman home offers views, period charm

Call to subscribe: 1-800-598-4637

Live in a great location without bursting your bubble.

Grand Opening

Heritage single-family homes from the \$600,000s

Now here's news that will have you bursting with excitement: At Heritage's Grand Opening this weekend, you'll find an impressive selection of surprisingly affordable homes in California's newest hometown, Mountain House. From large, family-minded floorplans to community parks and pedestrian-friendly tree-lined streets, Heritage offers comfortable master-planned living just steps from the brand new Wickliff Elementary School. Open daily 10-5; except Mon. 1-5.

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GABLE LANE
Opening Summer 2005
1,398-2,341 sq. ft. homes
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Map Not To Scale

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FIRST SALES RELEASE THIS WEEKEND • MASTER-PLANNED LIVING AT MOUNTAIN HOUSE

Looking for a new home? Don't miss this week's Open Home Guide on page B22.


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- Crocker Highlands Resident Since 1988
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- Will Provide Preapproval Within 24 Hours Upon Request

dianne@lasallefinance.com lasallefinance.com



Shown By
Appointment

Lake Merritt
647 Hillsborough Street

Near top of the hill blocks from Lake Merritt, charming duplex w/2-story, side-by-side, units. 2 BDRMS/1BA in each, eat-in kitchens, hardwood floors, sunny exposures, enclosed garages. Unit in back faces garden.



Offered at \$695,000
CAROL BROWN
510-339-4736
californiamoves.com

COLDWELL BANKER
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

The GRUBB Co.



212 Pala Avenue, Piedmont

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. Charming bungalow on one of Piedmont's most coveted streets. Three bedrooms, one + baths, level out to lush, private secret garden. Lots of original architectural details including built-ins and beautiful leaded windows.

Offered at \$995,000



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**HILLS NEWSPAPERS
REAL ESTATE & HOME**



Real Estate & Home

Weekly Home Sales Maintain your focus on the East Bay real estate scene [B7]
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Now is the time to prepare for the inevitable Big One!
Victorian Architecture at its finest
Craftsman home offers views, period

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4/1 - Fabulous Craftsman with lovely details, attic, basement, big yard, all in a convenient location. More at www.heidiandjerry.com.
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BERKELEY - NEW! \$845,000
3/2 - Lage converted attic, hardwood floors, views from upper deck, updated kitchen and baths. Photos at www.600peralta.com.
600 Peralta Avenue Open 2-4



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ALBANY \$899,000
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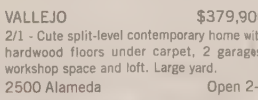
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[may 1st]

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Defining 'dead' and 'livable space'

Q. In a recent column you stated that "it really does not matter (for property tax purposes) whether the assessor uses interior measurement or exterior measurements." Well, I don't know how these things work in Minnesota, but in Allegheny County, Pa., assessments are based on "livable space." By measuring exterior walls, an assessor will not take into account closets or, worse yet, "dead space" in between the walls and the interior.

This is precisely our problem. We live in a 1.5-story home that is measured externally. Every assessment we must appeal and "prove" that we don't live in our eaves or crawl spaces.

Our second floor is supposedly the same square footage as our first floor despite having less than half the living area. We have tried to show from other appraisals that the measurements are off, but every appraisal we get has a different amount of square footage listed.

There really should be a standard way of measuring and, it seems to me, it should be done from inside the house so that dead space isn't considered into the equation.

Sign me, looking for the 500 square feet they claim I owe taxes on!

A. Although there is no one standard that is universally accepted by all valuation experts in all valuation assignments for all valuation as-

signments, the vast majority of appraisers and assessors correctly use an exterior measurement standard for single family, detached dwellings.

If, in Allegheny County, property taxes are paid purely on livable space (and not property value), then you need to fight for your rights. My guess is that property in

your area is taxed based on some measure of market value, and market value is to be determined partly on some measurement related to "livable" area.

Now, to why "it (really) doesn't matter": In any market-based valuation exercise, the choice of interior versus exterior measurement is irrelevant when conducting the ex-



TOM HAMILTON
Real Estate Q&A

ercise completely and fully to its conclusion.

See HAMILTON, Page B14

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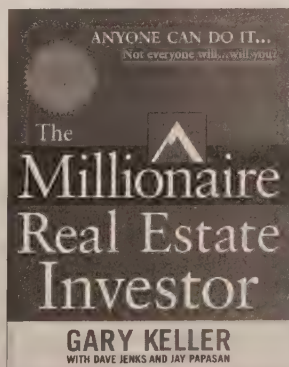
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Get the right tools and right paint before tackling home's exterior

BY ALAN J. HEAVENS
NIGHT RIDER NEWSPAPERS

When the exterior of a house needs hard work. But if you do it right, a fine paint job can be the point of pride and a boost to home's curb appeal.

Get to know: What might be on the surfaces you'll work on. For instance, paint keeps peeling on a fascia board (the wide

board affixed to the edge of a roof rafter), it may be the spot is constantly damp because rainwater is directed there by the roof or a gutter. Investigate and fix that problem first, then decide if the fascia board needs replacing before you paint.

Get the right tools: To prepare the surfaces, you'll need paint-scraping implements, plenty of caulk and a caulk gun, wood filler

and a putty knife for gaps and holes, and sandpaper. Some painters use heat guns that soften old paint to make it easier to scrape.

You'll need dropcloths to catch bits of old paint and protect trees and shrubs; brushes of various sizes and rollers for wider surfaces, such as trim; and paint buckets, to hold just as much paint as you'll need for the surface you're tackling.

You'll probably need more than one ladder, and a painter's hook, which attaches to ladder rungs and to the handle of your paint bucket.

Good advice: Don't use cheap paint. Some exterior paints are better than others and are formulated to last longer. And don't water down paint to make it go farther. Exterior


See HEAVENS, Page B14

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Paint

FROM PAGE B13

Int on wood, brick and aluminum surfaces lasts seven to 10 years; the product warranty is based on use according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Buy good brushes, too; cheap brushes come loose and stick to the painted surface. Be sure to use brushes for the paint you're using — oil-based, latex (water-based), or stain.

Bad advice: "You don't need to prime before painting if it isn't new wood." The primer you use often determines how well the finish coats of paint go on and how long the job lasts. The primer seals the surface so that it doesn't soak up the more expensive paint you're using for the finish coats.

Hamilton

FROM PAGE B12

Mathematically, if either measurement system is used accurately and consistently in the appraisal assignment, there will not be a (significant) difference in valuation outcome. Any actual difference can be attributed to either a rounding error or a gross oversimplification in the analysis.

When using exterior measurements, all one needs to compute is an accurate ratio of living area to gross building area and apply that ratio to the exterior dimensions found. The ratio will account for wall space, closets, etc. More specifically in your case, it sounds as though a cost-based system is used to determine value, and some might argue that the with a cost-based valuation system, the choice of interior versus exterior measures will matter and will affect the value upon which taxes are paid.

Simply the fact of using building cost as the primary (or sole) method of improvement valuation will not preclude the assessment system from adequately working with either interior-based or exterior-based measurements, it just needs to be consistently and accurately applied so that all taxpayers are treated equally.

You can be assured that a cost-based valuation system with fully thought-out, accurate and complete depreciation estimates will approach perfect correlation with pricing in the marketplace because a good appraisal is a good appraisal.

With respect to your specific issue on the size of the upper level of your home being so much smaller, how about taking a series of pictures from all sides of your house? If it has half the living area, it should be obviously smaller in dimension than the main area. If your issue is with wall height or sloped ceilings, that is a "construction grade and quality" issue that can easily be handled in all approaches to value as well.

So, to answer your question, a measurement standard will only get you part way to the answer. Real equity can only arise when accurate and mathematically consistent methods are applied across-the-board.

Q. This is yet another question concerning living in a house for two years and selling with no taxable gain. If I tear down the old house that I have lived in for years and build another, do I have to live in the new house two years to protect the gain from taxes? I lived on the spot for two years, just not in the house being sold.

A. As I read the IRS documentation on sale of your home, the documentation states that you must use the property as your primary residence for two of the past five years. Remember, the property is more than just the improvements, so new improvements are simply changes to the "property" that you would have to claim as your primary residence for 24 of the 60 months prior to the sale.

During construction (e.g., total replacement) would you be living elsewhere, or would you have temporary housing on site? If you had housing "on site," then you'd keep the same address as your primary residence and there would be no break in the time sequence for your primary residence. If you lived elsewhere during construction, then the 24 of 60 past months rule would kick in. For simplicity's sake, if you lived in the house for 730 days during your five-year ownership period (of the previous five years), then you can exclude the gain.

You probably want to review IRS Publication 523 from the IRS Web site for any specific issues you may have not included in your question: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p523.pdf>.

The question is similar to others from the past, yet it is a new twist on the subject!

Tom Hamilton, Ph.D., is associate professor at the Shenoy Center for Real Estate Education at the University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis. E-mail questions to: thamilton@stthomas.edu. Please include name, city and state.

Word to the wise: Sand between coats. A light sanding gets rid of the bumps and ridges and roughs up the surface just enough to accommodate the second coat.

What it will cost: Good paintbrushes start at \$5. Latex caulk is \$2 to \$5 a tube. A heat gun can run \$25 to \$35.

Exterior paint costs \$15 to \$35 a gallon; a gallon covers 500 square feet with one coat. Measure the area you will be painting, determine the total square footage, and divide by 500. (Buy an extra gallon to avoid running short.)

For trim paint, the rule is one gallon for every six gallons of exterior wall paint. A new house typically requires one coat of primer, two of finish paint. Older houses may require only one finish coat.

Write to Alan J. Heavens, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Box 8263, Philadelphia, PA 19101, or send e-mail to aheavens@phillynews.com.

The primer you use often determines how the finish coats of paint go on and how long the job lasts. The primer seals the surface so it doesn't soak up the more expensive paint you're using for the finish coats.

1087 Melrose Avenue, Alameda

JUST LISTED

IF YOU WANT IT ALL...YOU JUST FOUND THE RIGHT HOME! Great location within walking distance to community pool, sunny and spacious G3 townhome with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, living room with fireplace, dining area, kitchen with upgraded appliances and family room opening to a charming, private patio (possible 4th bedroom). Beautiful views from front and back, upgrades, move in condition. Come and see!

Uli LiRosi
(510) 910-1443

Offered at \$545,000

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The GRUBB Co.

1106 Graggmont Avenue, Berkeley

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30. A romantic hideaway North Berkeley hill! Close to U.C. and parks, has two bedrooms, one and one half baths, dining room, attached garage and peeks of the bay.

Offered at \$675,000

BEBE McRAE
652.2133/415
bmcrac@grubbco.com
GRUBBCO.COM

OPEN SUN 1-5

562 Hayes, Richmond (Cross Street is Borne)

Wonderful North and East 3bd/1ba home. Hardwood floors, double pane windows, built-in BBQ, hot tub, patio, garage, eat-in kitchen and dining room. A bright interior that flows into a large garden. Don't miss this one!

Offered at \$379,000

Daniel Fernandez
(510) 717-2555
Zephyr Real Estate

BERKELEY HILLS REALTY

View Photo Tour On The Web

2887 Buena Vista Way, Berkeley
By Appointment
Stunning, dramatic 1985 contemporary with fabulous S.E. Bay views on a double lot. Coveted West Berkeley location. Exceedingly private with expansive decks providing excellent indoor/outdoor. Over 5,000 sq. ft. includes 5 bdms, 5.5 baths, media room, elevator, and more. Close to U.C., Chez Panisse, and Tilden Park.
Norah Brower \$2,500,000
524-9888 x26

984 King Drive, El Cerrito
Fabulous price for the gardener seeking privacy. Huge lot to enjoy from this 3-bdrm, 2-bath home with excellent indoor/outdoor. Large, sunny living room enjoys a good view. The family room has a fireplace. Eat-in kitchen next to the formal dining room has a skylight.
Barbara Conheim \$625,000
524-9888 x28

1160 Powell Street, Emeryville Border
Spacious and light, tastefully renovated 1924 bungalow with coved ceiling, hardwood floors, and skylights. 2 bdrms, plus an office and den. Downs: the bedroom unit and a studio unit. Adorable flowering backyard with deck, garage.
Chris Ehlers-Hardie \$599,000
524-9888 x22

885 Athens Ave., Oakland
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:30
New listing! Beautifully restored 2-story charmer in emerging West Oakland artists' enclave. Living room with built-ins. Original fixtures, creative tile, hwd floors. Upgrades, move-in condition. 3+bdms, 1.5 baths. Full basement/workshop, 2-car garage. Lush garden. Easy access to S.F., BART.
Romney O'Connell \$379,000
524-9888 x52

108 Forest Lane, Berkeley
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00
New listing! 2 expansive decks & 4 sets of westward facing glass doors emphasize the spectacular Bay views. Sumptuous finishes include: warm Venetian plaster walls, natural stone tiles, skylights and more. Pleasant open floor plan begins with a formal entry. Most rooms enjoy views. Built in 1989, this home benefits from modern construction techniques.
Bill and Tracy \$765,000
524-9888 x33

2822 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00
New listing! Light-filled, spacious, beautiful 3-bdrm, 2-bath corner unit in custom-built, 4-unit complex in the heart of the best of Elmwood! Enjoy 1-level living in your private home w/hwd floors, master bdrm suite, formal dining rm, brick flpl & a sunroom. Tons of storage. "Really feels like a home."
Denise Milburn \$625,000
524-9888 x35

613 Carmel Ave., Albany
Open Sunday, 2:00 - 4:00
New Listing! Charm! Charm! Sun-filled, 2-bedroom, move-in condition. Deck, new paint in and out, refinished floors, new roof, remodeled kitchen. Enjoy nearby park and El Cerrito Plaza, Fairmount and Solano Avenues.
Kay Kruse \$525,000
524-9888 x15

2615 Telegraph Ave., #303, Berkeley
By Appointment
New Price! 1-bdrm condo in newer complex close to campus. Freshly painted, hardwood floors and crown molding. Ideal for students. Excellent location with easy access to great restaurants, shops, cafes, BART and more!
Denise Milburn \$349,000
524-9888 x35

"We are happy in our wonderful new home. You made the house-hunting a great learning experience for us—we could not have chosen a better agent!"
—C. K. & E. P., Kensington

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me tips: Shopping for a mortgage

of buying a new type of mortgage loan? There are many considerations. What is the right loan? How much of a payment can you afford? How do you plan to stay in the home? Financing the most appropriate program is a critical step in the buying process," said Stina Charles-Harris, director of consumer services, an online mortgage lender. "It's important to understand the various options: how one loan differs

from another, how the various loan features will affect the mortgage and how you can lower your interest rate with a higher down payment."

There are many loan mortgage options:

■ **Fixed Rate Loans:** Fixed rate loans have interest rates that remain the same throughout the life of the loan. The terms, or length, typically are 30, 20, and 15 years.

■ **Adjustable Rate Mortgages (ARM):** ARMs feature interest rates that adjust to the general level of mortgage rates. The rates are fixed for a pre-specified period of time, and then typically adjust annually

throughout the rest of the loan. Amerisave, for example, offers 7-, 5-, 3- and 1-year ARMs. The initial rates for ARMs are typically lower than a fixed rate, but there is the risk that rates could rise in the future. ARMs are a good choice for consumers who don't plan to stay in their new home for a long period.

■ **Interest-only loans:** Interest-only loans require no principal reductions, making the monthly payments significantly less than a traditional fixed rate or ARM program. The principal payments can be made optionally, offering greater flexibility for people who have fluctuating incomes or want increased cash flow for investing or other financial needs.

■ **Balloon loans:** Balloon loans typically amortize over a 30- or 20-year period, but are due at the end of the initial term, or the maturity date, typically 3, 5 or 7 years. The interest rate is fixed throughout the initial term of the loan.

■ **Jumbo loans:** Jumbo loans generally exceed \$333,700. These loans typically carry slightly higher interest rates. Consumers who are close to a jumbo loan limit may want to increase their down payment or use a piggyback loan to reduce their loan amount.

■ **Piggyback loans:** Piggyback, or combo, loans combine a standard mortgage loan with a second mortgage or home equity line of credit. Each loan has its own note, including repayment term, interest rate and monthly payment.

The best place to begin researching the various loan programs is on the Internet. Rate-listing sites

such as bankrate.com are a resource.

But watch out for unscrupulous lenders who use bait and switch tactics — offering a low rate with stipulations that are unrealistic.

Amerisave offers rates from top banks for a variety of home financing needs. The company provides customers the ability to obtain competitive rates via the Web.

It has a \$300 guarantee that consumers will not find a mortgage loan at lower cost in rates and fees. See www.amerisave.com.



JUST SOLD!

I was pleased to represent the buyers in the purchase of this lovely home.

Stina Charles-Harris
(510) 527-2700x23
stina@marvingardens.com
Advising Home Buyers & Sellers

7000 Ridgewood Drive
Oakland

659 NEILSON STREET • ALBANY

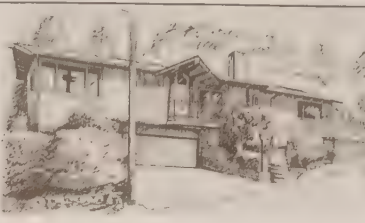
Spectacular Albany Retreat
Two Houses on One Lot
\$899,000

Front house is a deliciously sunny modernized three bedroom craftsman with vaulted ceilings and wood details. Unique cathedral window frames the charming garden and deck with hot tub. Quaint, secluded one bedroom cottage at rear of lot provides the ultimate in privacy and extra income. Perfect upper Albany location is close to Marin Elementary and Solano Ave. amenities. Cook's kitchen, hardwood floors, fireplace and lots of basement storage are but a few of the features.

Alexis Greenberg
510.527.2700 x 16 Office
510.381.3232 Cell
www.BerkeleyHomeSearch.com

Open Sunday, May 1st
2-4pm


NEW LISTING



Woodminster ~ 3250 Crane Way

Sophisticated and light-filled, this home features 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths. The views of the bay, city lights and green space are captivating. Den with fireplace, huge eat-in kitchen, master suite and lovely patio/garden areas. A knock-out!

Offered at \$769,000



Becky Andersen
(510) 339-4755 Direct line
beckyandersen@earthlink.net
6137 La Salle Ave.
Oakland, CA 94611
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6326 Knoxville Rd., Oakland
Originally offered at \$899,000



805 Begier, San Leandro
Originally offered at \$899,000







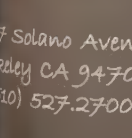
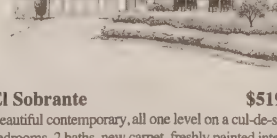


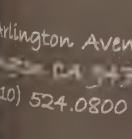
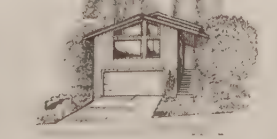
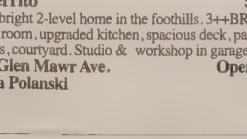

1636 San Lorenzo Ave., Berkeley
Originally offered at \$650,000



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mmerrick@grubbco.com
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marvin gardens Open Homes

 <p>7 Solano Avenue Berkeley CA 94707 (510) 527.2700</p>	 <p>Albany \$899,000 TWO HOUSES ON ONE LOT. Front house is a sunny, modernized 3 bedroom Craftsman. Quaint, secluded 1 BR cottage at rear of lot provides ultimate privacy. Legal, non-conforming duplex in a great location. Cook's kitchen, hrdwd floors & fireplace top the long list of features.</p> <p>959 Neilson St. Alexis Greenberg</p> <p>Open Sun. 2-4 510-381-3232</p>	 <p>Kensington \$869,000 Convenient Kensington Location. This spacious home offers a very flexible floor plan. Five bedrooms, four baths, and a den with fireplace. Gorgeous hardwood floors, private courtyard. Lovely level lot on cul-de-sac in prime area.</p> <p>3 Arlington Lane Mary Gray & Mykah Larkins</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4:30 527-9111</p>	 <p>Berkeley \$599,000 Fantastic duplex...2 houses on 1 lot! Colorful, charming, move-in condition. Front house can be 1-bedroom + formal dining room, or 2 BRs. Studio cottage has great light, beautiful, serene garden views, all appliances. Lush, landscaped garden. Very private setting.</p> <p>1319 Cornell Ave. Dee Plunkett</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4 527-9111</p>
 <p>2 Fairmount Avenue Berkeley CA 94530 (510) 527.9111</p>	 <p>El Sobrante \$519,000 Beautiful contemporary, all one level on a cul-de-sac. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, new carpet, freshly painted interior. Open floor plan. 2 car garage. Very private landscaped gardens. Green hills views.</p> <p>3740 Longhorn Court Meridee Carter</p> <p>Open Sun. 2-4 527-2700x39</p>	 <p>North Oakland \$495,000 Lovingly maintained 3 bedroom, 1+ bath home built in 1908. Spacious, comfortable floor plan plus elegance and charm of a time gone by. Front porch, coved ceilings, wainscoting in formal dining room, hardwood floors, updated kitchen.</p> <p>5605 Genoa St. Melissa Elzenberg</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4 524-0800</p>	 <p>Richmond N&E \$489,000 Pride of Ownership in Desirable North & East neighborhood. Very well maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath home. Refinished hardwood floors, freshly painted interior. Beautifully landscaped large yard with many mature trees. 2-car detached garage.</p> <p>794 35th St. Jeri Jones</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4 231-1640</p>
 <p>1 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley CA 94707 (510) 524.0800</p>	 <p>El Cerrito \$492,000 Spacious contemporary in park-like setting. Oversized living room w/ views of city lights & Mt. Tam. 2 BRs. 2 remodeled baths, new carpets & paint. Big open kitchen, corner fireplace in living room. 2-car garage.</p> <p>2656 Mira Vista Ave. Diana Mendler</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4 527-9111</p>	 <p>El Cerrito \$599,000 Light, bright 2-level home in the foothills. 3+BRs, 3 baths, family room, upgraded kitchen, spacious deck, patio, lovely gardens, courtyard. Studio & workshop in garage.</p> <p>6730 Glen Mawr Ave. Gloria Polanski</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4 524-0800</p>	 <p>Richmond Annex \$469,000 Spacious 3 bedroom, 1 bath home features attached 2-car garage and magnificent views of the El Cerrito Hills, all in very popular Richmond Annex. Sits above the street for maximum privacy.</p> <p>5600 Van Fleet Ave. Joan Underwood</p> <p>Open Sun 2-4 527-9111</p>

For more information about these properties visit www.marvingardens.com

THE WEEKLY SALES ARE ON PAGE D4.

3 New Listings



FIXER UPPER
#116 - Lots of potential. Close to freeways, backs to a park.

\$399,000



DELIGHTFUL DUPLEX
#121 - Spacious units, each 1 bdrm & 1 bath. Sunny kitchens, some hardwood floors, utility rms, nice yard & garages. Prime annex location, only minutes to El Cerrito & BART. Great investment opportunity. Hurry!

\$450,000



GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

#46 - Large size hair and beauty salon, located in prime Richmond location. Near freeway, BART and shopping. Ample parking, low monthly rent. 14 plus years of steady business.

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THORNWALL PROPERTIES

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Last wk This wk
\$ 5,900 \$ 5,900

CONTRA COSTA TIMES MORTGAGE GUIDE

www.mtgeinfo.com/cct

COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Comments
Saratoga Bancorp 800-935-6266 DRE#01220328 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.500 .0.000 5.33030	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 .0.000 5.89030	15-yr Fixed 5.250 .0.000 5.30630	5/1 ARM 5.000 .0.000 5.54030	Call for No Fee Loans. Credit scores From 450 to 850. Income Check Loans Purch/Refi to 100% saratogabancorp.com
Venstar Financial 866-580-6771 DRE#01400745 Fees=\$1410	30-yr Fixed 5.375 .1.000 5.55430	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 .1.000 5.75830	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625 .1.000 4.74830	7/1 ARM 4.875 .1.000 5.04930	We'll beat any bank's rates! 100% financing available! 100% Equity Lines Also do Nevada/Oregon/Colorado loans
Washington Mutual Bank 925-256-7171 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call	5/1 ARM call	30-yr Const/Perm call	Purchases: Close in just 7 days/no points Complimentary pre-approvals(866)WAMU Avail 7 days a week, including evenings
Wells Fargo Home Mfg. 925-287-6905 Fees=\$1180	30-yr Fixed call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call	10/1 ARM i/o call	5/1 ARM i/o call	PURCHASE - Fast Close - Refi - LOCA CALL Wells Fargo Home Mfg - 925-287- JUMBO, 5/1 ARM i/o, 10/1 ARM i/o
Wells Fargo Home Mfg. 866-898-1502 Fees=\$1431	30-yr Fixed call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call	6/1 ARM Jumbo call	10/1 ARM Jumbo call	100% to 1 ML Free Pre Approval Credit Lines to 3 M * Purchase loan
AAA Mortgage 888-821-6200 DRE#01096146 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.500 .0.000 5.57030	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .0.000 5.81030	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000 .0.000 5.07030	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 .0.000 4.81030	OPEN WEEKENDS-LOCK YOUR RATE 100% INTEREST ONLY OPTION GET PRE-APPROVED! CALL
Absolute Mortgage Fund. 888-90-HOMES DRE# 603-A778 Fees=\$1369	30-yr Fixed 5.375 .0.000 5.38030	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .0.000 5.76030	15-yr Fixed 4.875 .0.125 4.90030	5/1 ARM 4.625 .0.000 4.64030	LOWEST RATES AND FEES IN THE INDUSTRY FREE FLOAT-DOWN! FEES ARE ONLY IN CALL NOW! 888-90-HOMES
Alm Loan.com 888-411-4246 DRE#01235124 Fees=\$2400	30-yr Fixed 5.500 .0.250 5.59730	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .0.250 5.87830	15-yr Fixed 5.625 .0.000 5.37430	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125 .0.000 5.38130	Rates & Fees Online * Apply & Lock Interest Only * Stated income Open Sat/Sun 8-4 P.M. PT
Ameriave Mortgage Corp. 877-464-5218 DRE# 6038592 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.500 .0.000 5.60330	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .0.000 5.76030	3/1 ARM 4.625 .0.000 5.69730	5/1 ARM 5.125 .0.000 5.68930	No closing costs loans available www.amerave.com Best rates and terms guaranteed or we pay you \$300!
Bay Area Funding 925-930-3100 DRE# 769452 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 5.500 .1.000 5.68035	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .1.000 5.76135	35 year fixed ** 5.250** .1.000 5.24335	1st Time Buyer 30* 4.500* .1.000 4.67035	**1st TIME BUYER Int. only 1st 5 years **1st TIME BUYER 30 YR Fxd arm-2.5% Subsidy Income & priced limits 100% CO
CMG Mortgage Services 800-958-5339 DRE#01370755 Fees=\$1863	30-yr Fixed 5.500 .0.000 5.62530	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .0.000 5.82530	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.125 .1.500 4.27530	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.625 .1.250 4.76730	OPEN SAT/SUN STATED OR NO INCOME AVAILABLE CREDIT PROBLEMS OK NO POINTS LOANS AVAILABLE
Countrywide Home Loans 888-930-9888	30-yr Fixed call	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call	Pay Option ARM call	5/1 ARM Jumbo call	FREE pre-approval. Refinance/2nd home 100% financing/ no doc/ stated income 10 day purchase close CALL 888-930-9888
ditech.com 800-616-8208 DRE#0132004 Fees=\$1880	30-yr Fixed 5.125 .2.000 5.42330	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625 .2.000 5.87430	15-yr Fixed 4.625 .2.000 5.12930	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.000 .2.000 5.41530	Se habla Español Your mortgage solution Delivered Apply now at ditech.com
Downey Savings & Loan 800-798-2148 DRE#0132004 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.500 .1.375 5.65345	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 6.000 .0.500 6.06145	1-mo COFI ARM 1.000** .1.000 5.19445	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 .0.000 4.79030	Direct lender 45 yrs experience fixed & adjustable rate mortgages. *Pot. neg. amort Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
First Blackhawk Financial 800-796-MARY DRE#01144055 Fees=\$1986	30-yr Fixed 5.625 .0.000 5.71630	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .0.000 5.76930	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125 .0.000 5.18330	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750 .0.000 4.79030	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALS Call 7 days per week 1(800) 796-MARY www.manyrightel.com
Golden Gate Home Loans 877-246-5899 DRE# 6052720 Fees=\$1532	30-yr Fixed 5.625** .0.000 5.70130	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750** .0.000 5.78330	3/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000** .0.000 5.03230	Pick-A-Payment 1.000*** .0.000 4.94730	100%Financing, No Income Verif Avail ***Poss Neg Am PMT on 500K-\$150K *700 FICO**Jumbos: 700 FICO+3 yrs
Imperial Mortgage 800-961-2274 DRE#01033932 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.375 .1.000 5.57530	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .1.000 5.82430	3/1 ARM i/o 3.875 .1.000 4.07430	5/1 JUMBO ARM i/o 4.750 .1.000 4.94030	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTE ME FOR AN HONEST LOCKABLE RATE www.mainternational.com - Open 7 Days Guarantee to beat your best rate and fee
Main Line Tavistock Mtge 877-876-3600 DRE# 603-A784 Fees=\$1298	30-yr Fixed 5.500 .0.000 5.58030	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750 .0.000 5.81030	20-yr Fixed 5.250 .0.000 5.31030	15-yr Fixed 5.125 .0.000 5.19030	NO RATE LOCK FEE-NO APPLICATION www.mainternational.com - Open 7 Days Guarantee to beat your best rate and fee
Mortgage Market 800-837-5626 DRE#00887562 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.625 .0.000 5.71630	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 .0.000 5.96530	15-yr Fixed 5.250 .0.000 5.40230	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.125 .0.000 5.21330	Great Purchase, Refinance Construction Home Equity 100% LTV Loans Great Service, Over 25 years in Business
Pacific West Financial 800-798-7334 DRE#01124591 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.625 .0.000 5.71630	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.875 .0.000 5.91630	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.250 .0.000 5.28930	3/1 ARM 4.750 .0.000 4.83830	100% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK

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- Learn about each lender's products & services
- Learn about closing costs and types of loans
- Check out our useful mortgage calculators
- Email questions/scenarios to us
- Hotlinks to all lenders' websites
- Prequalify, preapprove or apply

Rates based on \$175,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$359,650) based on \$400,000 loan. All rates are believed to be competitive and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Certain points include origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance. Lock-rate lock period. ARM-adjustable rate mortgage. Companies pay a fee to be in this Guide. *Avg 30 yr fixed conforming with 0 points Fees are estimates. \$175,000 purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or recording fees. In Current Mortgage Rates section of website - contact each company for details. Copyright 2003 INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Ridder.

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1012 WALNUT ST. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 \$899,000
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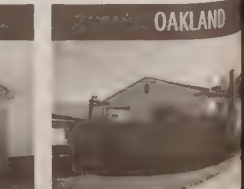
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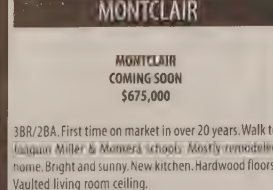
MONTCLAIR
6055 WOOD DR. OPEN SUN 1-4:00 \$869,000
3BR/3BA. Approx. 2416 sq. ft. Piedmont side. Unique brown shingle. Updated kit. w/ granite counter. New carpet & tiles. Hdwd. flrs. 2 decks w/ filtered bay views.
Cathleen Azzarello & Sarah Blogg (925) 935-9100



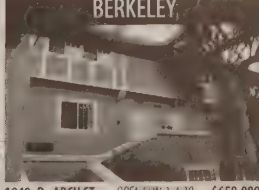
BERKELEY
1828 FRANCISCO ST. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 \$729,500
Du-plex in North Berkeley. Both Vacant. Great 2 BR house with attached 2+ BR unit. Short walk to BART & U.C.
Keith Tower (510) 339-8900



OAKLAND
GLEN EDEN SALE PENDING
2BR/1.5BA. Terrific home near Piedmont Ave. Great location. Darling details. Huge yard. Garage & more. Gorgeous. Close to everything!
Andrea Gordon



MONTCLAIR
MONTCLAIR COMING SOON \$675,000
3BR/2BA. First time on market in over 20 years. Walk to Jackson Miller & Marmara schools. Mostly remodeled home. Bright and sunny. New kitchen. Hardwood floors. Vaulted living room ceiling.
Phil Weingrow (510) 339-8900



BERKELEY
1849-B ARCH ST. OPEN SUN 2-4:30 \$659,000
3BR/2BA. Unique spacious condo near UC. Gourmet Ghetto shops. Bay views from master suite. Soaring ceiling & architecturally significant frp. Updated kit. + 2 car parking.
Miriam Wilson (510) 339-8900



OAKLAND
COMING SOON \$599,000
3BR/2BA. Stunning Victorian in the Diamond district. Large back yard. 2 apt. units downstairs. Views of the East Bay hills.
Victor Fierro (510) 339-8900



OAKLAND
COMING SOON \$435,000
1+BR/2BA. Fabulous townhouse adjacent to pool and clubhouse. Soaring ceilings. Wooded lot. Huge master suite.
Miriam Wilson (510) 339-8900



OAKLAND
LEASE/RENTAL
LAKE MERRITT SHOWN BY APPT
2BR/2BA. Sweeping panoramic views of the East Bay hills are seen from every room of this "glove" bldg. offering 24 hr. drmm. service & more.
Tom Erwin

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Legacy First Financial 925.975.4300

Piedmont - Open Sunday 2 - 4:30



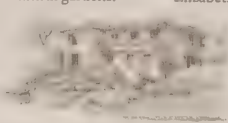
50 SOTELO AVENUE \$3,200,000
Exquisite Piedmont Colonial w/three levels of gracious living & views. 5BR/4.5BA + library, sun room, family room & beautiful gardens. Elizabeth Dickson



190 SANDRINGHAM RD \$1,995,000
A beautifully redesigned & spacious home on a quiet cul-de-sac. Fabulous master suite, huge kitchen/family room. Au-pair suite. 4BR/4+BA. Anian Pettit Tunney



11 CALVERT COURT \$1,250,000
Custom Piedmont home in move-in condition. Five bedrooms, three baths. Beautiful garden with solar heated pool & fountain. Angela Wei Grubb



561 BLAIR AVENUE \$2,150,000
Lovely Piedmont traditional. The kitchen/family room has access to the patio & garden. 3BR + office share upper level, w/4th BR & rumpus room below. Mindy Scott



18 MANOR DRIVE \$1,395,000
This 3+++BR/2+BA gracious Piedmont Mediterranean boasts pride of ownership throughout and a sunny level garden with private patio. Mavis Delacroix



212 PALA AVENUE \$995,000
Charming bungalow on one of Piedmont's favorite streets. 3BR/1+BA, many original details & built-ins intact. Private lush gardens for play & entertaining. Hope Broderick

Berkeley - Open Sunday 2 - 4:30



880 GRIZZLY PEAK \$1,495,000
Beautiful new construction with Bay views. Close to Tilden Park. 4BR/3.5BA. Rich finishes attached garage w/interior access. North Berkeley's best! Bebe McRae

256 ALVARADO ROAD \$1,050,000
High quality. SF views, two suites w/views, formal dining room, living room w/fireplace, 3rd BR being used as an office. Hardwood floors, excellent location. Kurt Buchholz



1488 KEONCREST DRIVE \$619,000
Close to BART & Monterey Mkt. Remodeled kitchen. Updated baths. Master bedroom w/reading nook. Huge, level garden w/greenhouse. Deck. 2BR/1.5BA. Diane Verducci

1106 CRAGMONT AVE. \$675,000
A rare opportunity for a little hideaway in the North Berkeley hills! 2+BR/1.5BA, formal dining, attached garage and peeks of the Bay. Bebe McRae

Oakland - Open Sunday 2 - 4:30



1029 SUNNYHILLS ROAD \$849,000
Close to Crocker Highlands School, astorybook traditional w/gleaming floors, French doors to patio & garden. 2BR, study + guest room. Dana Cohen



5901 LEONA STREET \$769,000
Exceptional style, quality & space. Nestled among Live Oaks, featuring Bay views, this mid-century property has been tastefully updated. 5BR/4BA. Double garage. Mary Merrick



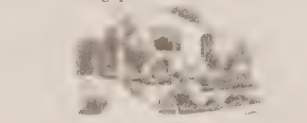
4404 REINHARDT DRIVE \$689,000
Sophisticated light-filled home w/spacious rooms & a wonderful floor plan. 3BR/2BA, gorgeous family room. Great entertaining spaces. Anne Van Dyke



30 OVERLAKE COURT \$795,000
Open 1-4:30. Bright & airy 3++BR/2BA home in Montclair on a large property. Huge enclosed brick patio for indoor/outdoor entertaining & play. Tricia Swift



6885 OAKWOOD DRIVE \$719,000
Large, dramatic Montclair contemporary w/lovely hill views, soaring vaulted ceilings, den/office, family room. Ideal au-pair set-up. Steve Michaelides



291 ADAMS STREET \$559,000
Great location near Lake Merritt, this 1920's traditional has been carefully maintained. Exceptional gumwood, beveled glass built-ins. 2BR/1+BA. Katherine Cooper

Shown By Appointment



PIEDMONT \$3,450,000
This magnificent Mediterranean estate (c. 1929) offers gracious living w/5BR, beautiful gardens, San Francisco views & remarkable architectural details throughout. Jean Simmons/Anian Pettit Tunney



LIVE/WORK SPACE \$995,000
Live/work in this 4BR/2BA flat upstairs w/space for a business downstairs. Separate 1BR/1BA cottage. Secluded garden level out from shop. Bettina Balestrieri



UPDATED CONTEMPORARY \$699,000
This lovely contemporary is updated with style and taste. Enjoy a remodeled kitchen & Bay views. 3BR/2.5BA. Close to hiking and regional parks. Angela Wei Grubb



PIEDMONT GEORGIAN \$2,440,000
Classic landmark in central Piedmont. Gracious formal rooms. Four generous bedrooms up. Country kitchen. City views, sunrooms, garden. Sandra Vogl



PIEDMONT TRADITIONAL \$995,000
Piedmont traditional, beautifully updated and ready to move in. 4BR/2BA. Random plank hardwood floors, level rear garden & two-car garage. Adam Betta



CANYON OAKS \$379,000
Attractive upstairs condominium in a desirable complex. This spacious upstairs property w/two master suites & fireplace features a park-like setting, swimming pool, spa & hiking trails. Sherry Benninger



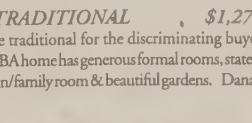
STUNNING VIEWS \$1,475,000
Designed by J.H. Thomas (c. 1913) on a Berkeley hillside, this home has magnificent Bay views, country gardens, "great" room, formal dining room & 5BR/4.5BA. Needs work. Tricia Swift



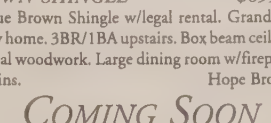
CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$879,000
Crocker Highlands contemporary home. Great floorplan, level property. 4BR/3updated BA. Newly remodeled kitchen/family room. Enclosed back garden. Quiet street. Judith Cain



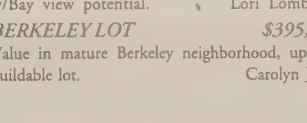
BROWN SHINGLE \$699,000
Unique Brown Shingle w/legal rental. Grand single family home. 3BR/1BA upstairs. Box beam ceilings & original woodwork. Large dining room w/fireplace & built-ins. Hope Broderick



EXQUISITE TRADITIONAL \$1,279,000
Exquisite traditional for the discriminating buyer. This 4BR/3.5BA home has generous formal rooms, state-of-the-art kitchen/family room & beautiful gardens. Dana Cohen



PIEDMONT CRAFTSMAN \$925,000
Wonderful Piedmont Craftsman on magical street w/BR, 2BA, kitchen/family room, upper & lower decks, European garden with fountain. Numerous upgrades. Professional decorating. Nancy Lehrkind



EMERYVILLE CALL FOR PRICE
Completely hidden from view are these two separate buildings on one lot, currently used as live/work. The front house is light & spacious. The rear house has been completely updated. Carolyn Jones

LOTS AND LAND

STUNNING VIEWS \$1,650,000
Magnificent view lot in Upper Rockridge. Level building site. Quiet cul-de-sac. Elizabeth Dickson

BUILDABLE LOT \$475,000
Vacant lot in million dollar neighborhood. Mostly level w/Bay view potential. Lori Lombardo

BERKELEY LOT \$395,000
Value in mature Berkeley neighborhood, upslope buildable lot. Carolyn Jones

Coming Soon



PIEDMONT CALL FOR PRICE
Filled with charm and in the perfect location is this Piedmont brown shingle w/lovely front veranda, leaded windows, hardwood floors, 4BR/2.5BA, library & family room w/fireplace. Elizabeth Dickson



PIEDMONT CRAFTSMAN \$925,000
Wonderful Piedmont Craftsman on magical street w/BR, 2BA, kitchen/family room, upper & lower decks, European garden with fountain. Numerous upgrades. Professional decorating. Nancy Lehrkind



EMERYVILLE CALL FOR PRICE
Completely hidden from view are these two separate buildings on one lot, currently used as live/work. The front house is light & spacious. The rear house has been completely updated. Carolyn Jones

Tips for creating a home work environment

NAPSI

Due to advancements in technology, more people are working from home. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 19.8 million people do some work at home as part of their primary job. Because of this trend, more and more people are setting up home offices.

Although technology facilitates the ability to work at home, telecommuting can pose certain challenges. Here are some tips on how to cre-

ate a home office environment that will work for you:

■ Make sure your home office is in a good location. If possible, set it up in a room that's quiet and away from high-traffic areas. This will allow for less distraction and more productivity. A room with good lighting and climate control is important, too.

■ Stay organized. Your home office should mirror that in any corporate environment. To that end,

arrange office supplies that you use every day in such a way that they can be easily accessed. In addition, consider installing cabinets to store unused files and office supplies.

■ Don't keep things in your home office that don't belong there. Items such as kids toys and exercise equipment can be a distraction. However, if it's not possible to remove non-work related items,

See ENVIRONMENT, Page B20

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

NEW LISTING - PIEDMONT AVENUE DUPLEX

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-4:30PM



This charming home has welcomed Piedmont Avenue habitués since 1910. Whether they arrived by horse and buggy, Key System, or SUV, they likely enjoyed the light-filled rooms, coed ceilings, fireplace, hardwood floors, and much more. There's a cheerful backyard with garage too. And all in a fabulous location.

29-31 Rio Vista Avenue, Oakland
Offered at \$649,000



Joan Dark

510.338.1316

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SOLD ~ SOLD ~ SOLD



Wonderful Prairie Style Classic
Three bedrooms
Two and one half baths
Listed for \$1,585,000

SOLD WITH SIX OFFERS

204 Hillside Avenue
Piedmont



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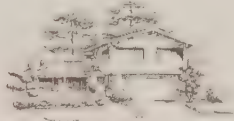
Representing the Seller in the sale of these fine homes



6550 GWIN ROAD
5 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths
Offered at \$1,875,000



7093 BROADWAY TERRACE
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths
Offered at \$1,050,000



10 YARMOUTH COURT
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths
Offered at \$789,000



11 WOODSIDE GLEN COURT
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths
Offered at \$1,100,000



Teri Carlisle

Senior Sales Consultant

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NEW REDWOOD HEIGHTS LISTING

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-5PM



Elegant Mediterranean with sophisticated architectural details throughout. Gorgeous curb appeal draws your eye to this fine 2 bedroom home. The living room features a dramatic fireplace, high ceilings, sconces and gleaming hardwood floors. Through an archway you find a large and gracious formal dining room. The charming kitchen has been upgraded and has room for a breakfast table. Two spacious bedrooms and a beautiful bathroom reflecting the period of the home. Storage and workshop are downstairs. The rear yard has a quaint garden and patio area.

3400 Guido Street, Oakland
Offered at \$649,000



Diane Earl McCan

510.338.1352

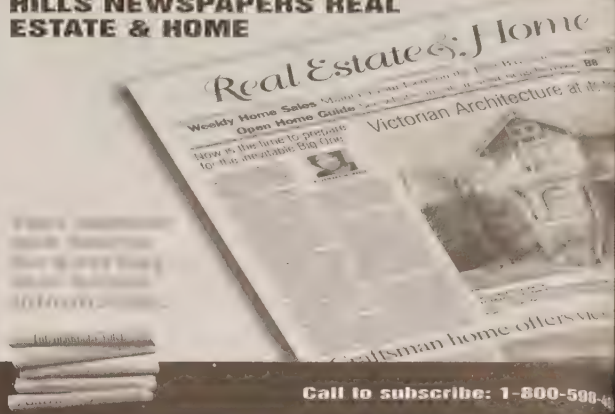
www.pacunion.com



Nancy Moore

510.338.1302

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PACIFIC UNION

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REDWOOD HEIGHTS

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-5PM



Sylvan creekside setting graces this 4BR/2BA home with in-law pool. Located at the end of a quiet road, surrounded by mature trees offering maximum privacy. Gleaming hardwood floors, sun-filled rooms, tree views from every window. Large to spacious brick patio from living room. A wonderful opportunity.

4120 Reinhardt Drive, Oakland
Offered at \$689,500



Diane Earl McCan

510.338.1352

www.pacunion.com

Call to

510.338.1352

PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

NEW LISTING - ART DECO BUILT

OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-5PM



80 Selkirk Street, Oakland ~ Offered at \$639,000 "As-Is"



Diane Earl McCan

510.338.1352

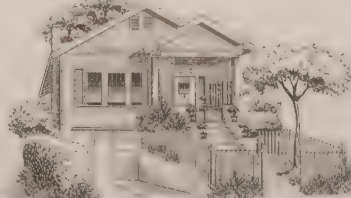
A wonderful opportunity to restore this delightful art deco style home into an open floor plan with distinct curves and wood moldings. Unique fireplace, living room along with herringbone hardwood floors (also gorgeous art deco). Three bedrooms on the main floor with one large bath with very art deco tile. Newly landscaped front yard and new furnace. Don't miss this opportunity.

REDWOOD HEIGHTS
LAUREL DISTRICT SPECIAL
www.dianemccan.com

COMING SOON!

116 Arbor Drive, Piedmont

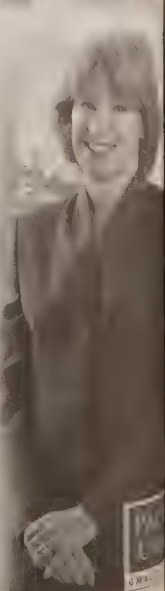
Freshly redone, 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom home, close to schools, transportation, and services. Renewed hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen with new granite counters, new fixtures and appliances, and new flooring. Formal dining room, nicely landscaped gardens. **Offered at \$749,000**



4228 Terrace Avenue, Oakland

Lovely, remodeled 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom home with a modern, open kitchen/dining/living area. Updated and upgraded throughout, including a hot tub, deck, and nice front and back gardens. Workout room/office downstairs. Convenient to Piedmont Avenue. **Offered at \$699,000**

DEBI FITZGERRELL, ASSOCIATE BROKER
510-338-1306 ♦ dfitzgerrell@pacunion.com



PACIFIC UNION

GMAC Real Estate

NEW PIEDMONT LISTING OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-4:30PM



29 Vista Avenue, Piedmont
Offered at \$1,095,000

Enjoy one-level living in this prime central Piedmont location. Three bedrooms, two baths with good natural light throughout. Level out to lovely gardens.



Steven Biasatti
510.338.1379

NEW CROCKER HIGHLANDS LISTING OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-4:30PM



1258 Sunnyhills Road, Oakland
Offered at \$1,495,000

This gorgeous 1924 Classic Traditional was renovated in 2003 with many designer touches. 4 bedrooms (one on main level), large master suite with plus room, stunning kitchen/family room, and gracious formal rooms. French doors lead to a new slate patio with wisteria covered arbor. Magnificent large mature landscaped park-like yard. Very desirable location close to the Piedmont border.



Fritz Hochfeller
510.338.1348

NEW OAKMORE LISTING OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-4:30PM



2440 Letmert Blvd., Oakland
Offered at \$1,200,000

Allow this 1930's Grand Traditional to welcome you home to grace and comfort! Entertain in the richly detailed living room with vaulted ceilings, built-ins and serene wooded views. Sit in the cozy library by one of the four fireplaces. Create in the spacious remodeled eat-in kitchen. Main-level bedroom/bath. Huge family room, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths. All set on a wide, oak-studded lot.

NEW MONTCLAIR LISTING OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-5PM



6345 Swatland Road, Oakland
Offered at \$1,249,000

Ever changing vistas are yours from this custom built 4+ bedroom, 3.5 bath contemporary. Approximately 3700 sq. ft. of casual and formal living areas, skyhigh ceilings, gorgeous marble entry, luxuriously appointed throughout. Sweeping decks and yard with fantastic bay views.

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00-4:30

CROCKER HIGHLANDS \$1,495,000 1258 SUNNYHILLS RD.

Amazing! Absolutely gorgeous 4BR/2+BA Classic Traditional renovated in 2003. Spacious family room, French doors to patio, landscaped park-like yard. Dee Knowland x1318



SEQUOYAH HEIGHTS \$575,000 127 IRONWOOD

New Listing! Lovely 3BR/2.5BA townhouse with outstanding outdoor living on cul-de-sac. Beautifully remodeled kitchen, family room, living room with fireplace, huge patio. Dana Dworin x1384



MONTCLAIR \$1,295,000 6345 SWATLAND BLVD.

Amazing! Gorgeous 3300+/- sq. ft. like new 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, office, family room, master appointed throughout. Great for comfortable living. Bonnie Hirsch x1337

PIEDMONT \$1,095,000 29 VISTA AVE.

Enjoy one-level living in this prime central Piedmont location. Three bedrooms, two baths with good natural light throughout. Level out to lovely gardens. Georgia Cornell x1325

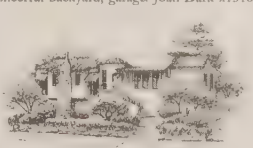
PIEDMONT AVENUE \$649,000 29-31 RIO VISTA AVE.

New Listing! Charming duplex in great location. Light-filled rooms, coved ceilings, fireplace, hardwood floors & much more. Cheerful backyard, garage. Joan Dark x1316



LAUREL \$535,000 3934 MADRONE AVE.

(Open 2-5)
Charming all-level 2BR/2BA custom built home. Sunny corner lot w/lovely landscaping. Spacious master bedroom suite. Beautiful rear patio, fenced yard, garage. Diane E. McCan x1352



BERKELEY \$559,000 1502 5th ST.

New Listing! Charming 2+BR/1BA home located close to 4th Street shopping area. Lovely kitchen, large light-filled loft & cheerful yard. Spacious detached studio. Rich Gould x1347



MONTCLAIR \$1,249,000 6345 SWATLAND RD.

Amazing! Fantastic Bay View contemporary 4BR/3.5BA, sky-high ceilings, gorgeous entry. Luxuriously appointed. Approximately 3700 sq. ft. Fritz Hochfeller x1348

ORINDA \$769,000 24 MARIPOSA LN.

New Listing! Stylish 3BR/2BA on cul-de-sac. Spacious enchanting level out gardens, beautiful views of the Orinda hills, light-filled open plan design. Convenient location. Leslie Avant x1341

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$649,000 3400 GUIDO ST.

(Open 2-5)
New Listing! Elegant 2BR/1BA Mediterranean w/ sophisticated architectural details. Formal dining room, upgraded kitchen, storage & workshop area. Quaint garden & patio. Nancy Moore x1302

LAKE MERRITT \$549,000 490 WESLEY AVE.

(Open 2-5)
2+BR/1BA 1919 craftsman. Original built-ins, hardwood floors, big fireplace, garage, updated systems & a yard that's positively sinful. Even a peek of the lake. Fritz Hochfeller x1348

PIEDMONT AVENUE \$459,000 525 MONTE VISTA AVE. #9

Fabulous 2BR/2BA corner unit. Magnificent views of the Rose Garden and Oakland Hills. Other features include wood floors, balcony, parking, washer & dryer. Ashley O'Neill x1368

OAKMORE \$1,200,000 2440 LETMERT BLVD.

Amazing! 1930's 5BR/3BA Grand Traditional. Spacious living room w/vaulted ceilings & built-in library, 4 fireplaces, spacious remodeled eat-in kitchen, large family room. Steven Biasatti x1379

HADDON HILL \$699,000 601 HADDON RD.

New Listing! Prestigious corner lot near the top of Haddon Hill. This four bedroom, three and one half bath property has a master suite, au-pair area, formal dining room & parlor. Chuck Corwin x1353



TEMESCAL \$535,000 391 45TH ST.

Bright and cheery 2 bedroom, 1 bath home with hardwood floors, formal dining room with built-ins and natural wood trim. Eat-in kitchen out to deck and yard. Lee Jacobson x1309

OAKLAND \$319,000 720 CANYON OAKS DR. #C

New Listing! Country living in the city, yet close to amenities. All level one bedroom master suite, fireplace in living room, laundry area and secluded patio. Kathy Flynn x1317



BY APPOINTMENT

OAKLAND HILLS \$1,095,000 42 GRAND VIEW DR.

Amazing! Contemporary Spanish set amidst towering redwoods. Unique & creative mix of old & new styles. Built for entertaining, w/2 fireplaces & a fantastic kitchen. Tom Nemeth x1381

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$689,500 4120 REINHARDT DR.

(Open 2-5)
Unique 4BR/2BA home in sylvan creek-side setting. Gleaming hardwood floors, sun-filled rooms, in-law potential. Level out to spacious brick patio from living room. Cindy Houts x1364

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$639,000 80 SELKIRK ST.

(Open 2-5)
New Listing! Delightful art deco style 3BR/1+BA home. Open floor plan w/distinct curves & wood moldings. Herring-bone hardwood floors, landscaped yard. Offered "as-is." Diane E. McCan x1352

SEQUOYAH HEIGHTS \$585,000 52 HERITAGE

New Listing! Lovely 3BR/2.5BA townhouse on tranquil cul-de-sac. Living room with fireplace, large dining area, crown molding, secluded patio & deck, 2-car garage with inside access. Robyn Mohr x1310

PIEDMONT \$3,450,000

Magnificent English Tudor on one of Piedmont's finest streets. Incredible architectural detail, 4+ bedrooms, 4+ baths, beautiful kitchen, library, family room and guest suite. Georgia Cornell x1325

CLAREMONT HILLS \$2,650,000

Resurrected from the destruction of the 1991 fire, this steel reinforced post & beam home offers spectacular five bridge views from an equally spectacular secluded site. "SeeMore" @ pacunion.com. Shown by appointment only. Gini Erek x1339

REDWOOD HEIGHTS \$1,500,000

Unique 5BR/3.5BA jewel in a private setting on over an acre of land. Stunning bay views, magnificent grounds. Impressive & gracious entryway, formal dining & living rooms. Price includes 2nd lot. Diane E. McCan x1352

LOWER ROCKRIDGE \$549,000

Absolutely wonderful 2BR/1BA craftsman with terrific floor plan. Refinished hardwood floors, fireplace, formal dining room with built-ins. French doors leading to patio and wonderful yard. Tom Nemeth x1381

OAKLAND \$499,000

1906 duplex. Three bedroom, two bath main unit with dining room and hardwood floors. Two bedroom, one bath lower unit. Big yard, garage converted to storage/workshop. Off-street parking. Wendy Gardner-Ferrari x1303

MONTCLAIR LOT \$249,000

Great development potential. Very buildable with moderate grade on northwest side of parcel. Soils report available upon request. Peaceful vistas across Shepherd Canyon. Approximately 6,648 square feet. David Ichikawa x1331

MONTCLAIR \$779,000

Contemporary with San Francisco influences. Kitchen/family room with built-in breakfast room, decks and patio. 3BR/2BA. Approximately 2466 sq. ft. Teri Cornwell x1305

MONTCLAIR price upon request

Wonderful 2+BR/1BA traditional. Original charming details. French doors, random plank floors, built-ins, bright rooms. Spacious bedrooms w/large walk-in closets. Large lot, attached garage. Nancy Chew x1342

OAKLAND \$699,000

Lovely, updated & upgraded 2BR/2BA home w/a modern, open kitchen/dining/living area. Hot tub, deck & gardens. Work-out room/office downstairs. Convenient to Piedmont Avenue. Debi Fitzgerald x1306

COMING SOON

PIEDMONT \$749,000

Freshly redone 3BR/2BA home in convenient location. Renewed hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen with newer granite counters & appliances, formal dining room and nicely landscaped gardens. Debi Fitzgerald x1306



0.339.6460



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www.pacunion.com

Is a home warranty a good deal?

BY SCOTT THOMPSON
CORRESPONDENT

Buyers commonly ask if the home warranty being offered by a seller is a "good deal."

According to home-warranty provider HMS National the average furnace repair costs between \$1,250 and \$5,000. A home warranty may save you dollars on a repair that pops up after the closing.

In addition, the money you save by not having to foot the bill for the policy—which on average can cost between \$300 and \$400—makes a warranty a worthy perk.

You should be cognizant, however, of exactly what the home warranty covers.

Most sellers only purchase a one-year basic warranty, which will generally cover major built-in appliances and mechanical systems such as heating, electrical and

plumbing, and usually it only covers normal wear and tear. For example, if the water heater was not in good working condition when the home was purchased, and it breaks a week or two later, there is no coverage.

If you want more extensive coverage, such as for pool equipment, air conditioning, or even the refrigerator, talk with your real estate professional about negotiating that extra cost with the seller, or consider purchasing your own warranty.

Also, remember that although most home warranties provide coverage only for one year, most plans are renewable.

Whether or not you are given the option of selecting your own home warranty provider, here are questions to consider:

- How much is the deductible or per visit cost for repairs?

- Does the plan cover "pre-existing conditions" which weren't known to the seller?
- Who performs the repairs? Can you choose someone or does the company send a technician in their network?
- What's the maximum dollar amount for repairs and what are the policy limitations? For example, will the policy pay for a new water heater at no additional cost?

Whether a warranty is offered by

the seller or not, no buyer should forgo a home inspection. An inspection may uncover defects or potential problems that won't be covered by the warranty—and may give you the opportunity to request the seller to make any major repairs before the closing.

But, warranties definitely have a place when it comes to protection and peace of mind. Contact your real estate professional for more information on home warranties and providers.

Scott Thompson can be reached at 510-410-2003.

The challenge of painting that ceiling

ACE HARDWARE

For most homeowners, painting the walls a new color is the easiest part of a paint job. Applying a fresh coat of white color onto an already white ceiling is where the project can get tricky.

"Any way you look at it, painting a ceiling can be a challenge," said Linda McDonald, co-owner of Walnut Creek Ace Hardware. "Usually white paint is being applied over another coat of white. Adding to the difficulty is lighting the surface so you can really see what you're doing. Just when you think you can see, your own shadow gets in the light. Inevitably, the end result can be unwanted streaks and missed spots."

Following are some quick tips from McDonald on how to make painting the ceiling simpler:

- Always paint the ceiling first, and then paint the walls. Begin by masking off the tops of the walls with painter's tape.
- Using a sturdy stepladder, paint the corners and edges of the ceiling first with a one to two-inch angled brush. To take the guesswork out of applying the paint

evenly, consider a product like Ace's Simply Magic Ceiling Paint, which uses a special chemical composition to brush on blue but dries pure white. The blue color makes it easy to apply the paint evenly, without missing any spots. Within 24 hours, the paint transforms into a pure, clean white matte finish.

- Using a roller, preferably one with an extension handle, paint in sections, rolling the paint onto edges that are still wet. This will ensure a smoother transition between the brushed and rolled areas.
- Apply paint diagonally and in the same direction to avoid creating visible lap marks.
- Paint the ceiling in sections until finished. Once the paint has thoroughly dried, remove the tape.

Environment

FROM PAGE B18

consider enclosing the home office area with a screen or decorative barrier.

- Have a dedicated phone line in the home office. This will enable you to easily distinguish business calls from personal calls. Also, consider an additional dedicated phone line if you're setting up a fax machine. This will eliminate the need to ask clients to call you back so you can hook the fax machine into the phone line.
- Make the most of your space. If you have a small room or corner for your home office, consider furniture with components that fold up when not in use.

Don't forget the walls. You can free up desk space, for example, by mounting the phone. Hang pictures or items you need easy access to (such as a palm pilot or calendar) with new Scotch reclosable fasteners from 3M. These fasteners last for thousands of closures without diminishing the holding power so you can remove and replace items often.

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946 SAN BENITO ROAD, BERKELEY
Located on a sought after North Berkeley street, this charmingly renovated 3+ bedroom, 3 bath home offers incredible views of the Bay and the Golden Gate. Spacious living room, elegant dining room, updated kitchen w/new appliances, a lower level family room w/a second kitchen open to a deck. Do not miss this wonderful new listing!

Offered at \$875,000



- Enclosed front yard w/lawn
- Bonus Room w/storage & laundry
- Gleaming hardwood floors
- Fireplace in living room
- Stylishly updated throughout

Patricia Scott Winslow
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490 Wesley Avenue, Oakland
Offered at \$549,000




Dear Mommy,
I know this comes as a shock, but I've finally found my dream home! A 2+ bedroom, 1 bath 1919 craftsman that's reasonable. There are original built ins, hardwood floors, big fireplace, garage, updated systems, a kitchen that "wow's" you and a yard that is positively sinful. Oh, and you can see the lake that's just steps away. Send money please

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127 Ironwood, Oakland
Offered at \$575,000
Outstanding outdoor living on a quiet cul-de-sac. 3BR/2.5BA Sequoyah Heights townhouse with tastefully remodeled kitchen, spacious living room, large dining area, separate family room and

Robyn Mohr
510.338.1310

www.robymohr.com
robyn@robymohr.com

CTJ JEKABSON
East Bay Real Estate

New Listing
2942 Linden Ave., Berkeley
\$995,000
Open Sunday 2-4:30



A remodeled Elmwood Craftsman located on a quiet charming street above College Avenue, perfect for shops and restaurants!

- Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths • Foyer entry • Eat-in kitchen with garden breakfast nook • Vintage details • Two fireplaces
- Master bedroom suite • Detached office • Attic storage with picture windows • New foundation/systems

CAROL T. JEKABSON
VMail 510.273.9322 Email JEKAB@SBCGLOBAL.NET

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NEW BERKELEY LISTING
OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-4:30 PM



Located close to Four shopping area, this 2+BR/1BA home has detached studio which is perfect for an office, art room, or artist studio. Kitchen and large light and cheerful yard make home a delightful place.

1502 5th Street, Berkeley
Offered at \$559,000

Rich Gould
510.338.1347

View at www.1502.com

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NEW LISTING ~ OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-4:30 PM



24 Mariposa Lane, Orinda ~ Offered at \$1,195,000
Inviting & stylish 3BR/2BA home surrounded by an enchanting California native garden. Spacious lot on a quiet cul-de-sac with ample level area for enjoyment or expansion. Features include light plan design, beamed ceiling, paver tile floors, a living room, beautiful views of Orinda hills. See the garden gate & experience the benefits of a home without being too far from shopping & dining.

Leslie Avant
510.338.1341

www.pacunion.com

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NEW LISTING ~ OPEN SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2-4:30 PM



52 Heritage, Oakland
Offered at \$585,000
Tranquil living on a quiet cul-de-sac. This lovely 3BR/2.5BA Sequoyah Heights townhouse includes a spacious kitchen with fireplace, large dining area, secluded patio. Many upgrades including new carpet and crown

Robyn Mohr
510.338.1310

www.robymohr.com
robyn@robymohr.com

DON'T MISS THE WEEKLY SALES IN THE AUTO SECTION ON D4.

JUST LISTED

Open Sunday, May 1st, 2-5pm

Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this all-level mid century features: 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, newer kitchen, family room/sun room, hardwood floors throughout, and large backyard with a studio that can be used for a workshop or playroom. Great home in a great neighborhood!

1723 Julian Court, El Cerrito
Offered at \$699,000

Gina Chrys, Realtor
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for photos & more information and
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OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$799,000
69 Florida, Berkeley. 3BR/2BA, cozy
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floors.
Candice/David (510) 868-1400



OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$789,000
6519 Oakwood, Oakland. Just listed!
4++BR/3+BA. Striking! Guest quarters.
Adrienne Nash (510) 845-0211



OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$789,000
1218 Holman, Oakland. Enchanting
Crocker Highlands home, 4BR/2BA, rec.
rm.
Dolores Thom (510) 834-2010



OPEN Sunday \$479,000
6300 MacArthur, Oakland. Duplex, 2BR/
1BA & 1BR/1BA. Super clean Med-
style. Clear pest.
Mark Hardwicke (510) 868-1400

PIEDMONT

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$1,395,000
2 Mountain Avenue. Charming 4BR/
3BA. English traditional.
George Milliron (510) 339-9290

OAKLAND

OPEN Sunday 1-5 \$850,000
25 Girvin Drive. 3BR/2BA, view, vit
ings, 3 level. Ad #1442.
Elizabeth Lowry (510) 758-5637

OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$799,000
25 Balfour. Crocker Highlands.
assy renovation! 3+BR/2BA.
(510) 868-1575

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$755,000
10 Thornhill Drive. Classic 3BR/
3BA Montclair contemporary.
Boomer (510) 339-9290

Sat & Sun 2-4:30 \$699,000
85 Skyline Blvd. Mini-fixer, 1900 sq.
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Strand.com (510) 339-9290

Sat & Sun 2-4:30 \$695,000
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tops, hardwood floors.
Pleasants (510) 868-1565

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28 Mountain Blvd. Charming
dated 2BR/1BA Montclair cottage.
Boomer (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$680,000
5 Spruce St. Haddon Hill 3BR/2BA,
nd flrs, new kitchen, move in!
Wang Wong (510) 834-2010

OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$490,000
12 Birdsal. Sweet 2BR/1BA w/
dated kitchen, nice yard, 1st open!
O'Shea (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 1-4 \$485,000
28 Kansas. 2BR/1BA hardwood floors,
new paint, deep backyard.
Carter (510) 868-1521

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OPEN Sunday 2-4:30 \$425,000
5408 Ruth Avenue. Sunny, spacious,
cheerful 2BR/1BA w/fresh paint!
MaryDresser.com (510) 339-9290

OPEN Sunday 2-5 \$419,950
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basement.
Casey Quintero (510) 834-2010

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5 Commodore Dr., B308. Lovely lrg.
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4BR/2BA + in-law. Big bay view.
Catherine Zhang (510) 527-9800

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7609 Errol Dr. Spacious 2+BR/2BA,
great views, good location, quiet.
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747 Norvell. 2BR/1BA, sweet,
charming home. Upgrades, new paint,
hwd flrs.
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units. See
www.rammedearthcottage.com
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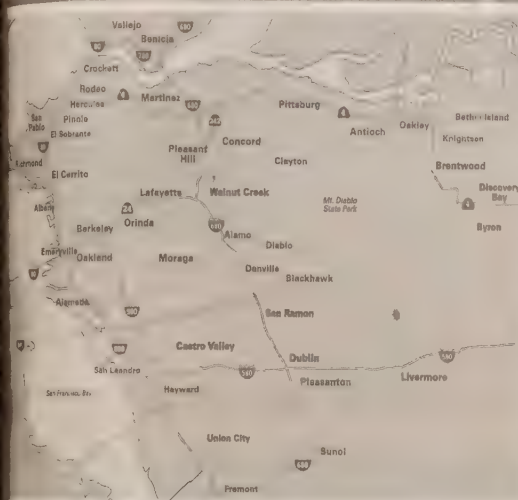
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\$750,000 7333 Sunkist Dr 2BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair Better Homes Ken Kwokeld	\$789,000 6519 Oakwood Dr 4+BD/3.5BA Sat & Sun 2-5pm Prudential Adrianne Nash
\$755,000 3424 Monterey Blvd 3BD/2BA Open Sun 2-5 Redwood Heights Realty World Columbia Margarida	\$795,000 30 Overlake Court 3+BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair 510-339-0400 Grubb Co. Tricia Swift
\$755,000 6709 Thornhill Dr 3BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair 510-339-9290 Prudential Gene Boomer	\$799,000 11200 Sun Valley 2BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30pm Caldwell Banker Gary Robinson
\$769,000 3250 Crane Way 3BD/2BA Sun 2-5 Woodminster 510-339-4700 Caldwell Banker Becky Anderson	\$799,000 5939 Chabot Crest 2BD/1.5BA Sun 2-5 Rockridge 510-339-4700 Caldwell Banker George Karsant
\$769,000 5901 Leona Street 5BD/4BA Open Sun 2-4:30pm Oakland Hills 510-339-0400 The Grubb Co. Mary Merrick	\$849,000 1029 Sunnyside Rd 2+BD/1.5BA Open Sun 2-4:30pm Crocker Highlands The Grubb Co. Dana Cohen
\$785,000 3639 Butters Drive 4BD/2BA Sun 1-5 Caldwell Banker Karyn Selby Miller	\$849,000 11445 Sun Valley 5BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30pm Grass Valley area Realty Advocates Hal Felger
\$789,000 1218 Holman Rd 4BD/2BA Open Sun 1-4pm Prudential Dolores Thom	\$849,000 6112 Ascot Drive 3BD/3.5BA Sun 2-4:30pm Caldwell Banker Joan Duffield
\$789,000 344 Alcatraz Ave. 3BD/3+BA Sun 1-4:30pm Rockridge 510-547-5970 x57 Lawton Associates Mary Smartt	\$869,000 6055 Wood Dr. 3BD/3BA Open Sun 1-4 Heritage 510-332-3921/388-6046 Azzarello/Blogg
\$789,000 6519 Oakwood Dr 4+BD/3.5BA Sat & Sun 2-5pm Prudential Adrianne Nash	\$873,000 8211 Skyline Blvd 4BD/3BA Open Sun 1:30-4:30 Allegro RE Services Barbara Fields

Oakland	Oakland
\$875,000 733 Carlston Ave 3+BD/2.5BA Open Sun 2-4pm Red Oak Realty Saraya Motley	\$925,000 1524 Fernwood Drive 3BD/4BA Sun 2-5 Montclair 510-339-4700 Caldwell Banker Darcy Diamantine & Karen Lum
\$899,000 7060 Exeter Drive 3BD/2.5BA Sun 1:30-4:30 Alain Pinel Realtors Hal & Kate Castle	\$939,000 208-212 Orange St. 2BD/1BA Sun 2-4:30 Adams Point - Triplex Caldwell Banker Noni Robinson
\$925,000 1524 Fernwood Drive 3BD/4BA Sun 2-5 Montclair 510-339-4700 Caldwell Banker Darcy Diamantine & Karen Lum	\$949,000 15022 Broadway Terrace 3BD/2.5BA Sun 1:30-4:30 925-253-4601/510-547-1615 Caldwell Banker Jerilyn Babington
\$959,000 6750 Pinehaven Rd 4+BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30pm Montclair 510-339-9290 Prudential Laurel Strand	\$959,000 5801 Ross St. 3BD/2.5BA Sun 2-5 Rockridge 510-339-4700 Caldwell Banker Terry Kulka & Bonnie Ross
\$1,075,000 3052 Guido 4BD/2.5BA Sun 1-5 Redwood Heights 510-339-4700 Caldwell Banker Donna Conroy	\$1,095,000 1102 Grand View Drive 3BD/2+BA Sun 2-4:30 Claremont Hills 510-338-1381 Pacific Union GMAC Tom Nemeth
\$1,249,000 6345 Swainland 4+BD/4BA Sun 2-5 Montclair 510-338-1346 Pacific Union GMAC Fritz Hochfelner	\$1,295,000 518 Mountain Blvd. 4+BD/4BA Open 2-4:30 Pacific Union GMAC Bonnie Hirsch
\$1,350,000 6261 Melville Drive 4+BD/4BA Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors Kathy Deal	\$1,495,000 1258 Sunnyside 4BD/2+BA Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands 510-338-1381 Pacific Union GMAC Dee Knowland
\$1,495,000 1258 Sunnyside 4BD/2+BA Sun 2-4:30 Crocker Highlands 510-338-1381 Pacific Union GMAC Dee Knowland	\$1,499,000 6267 Ruthland Rd. 4BD/3.5BA Sun 2-5 Montclair 510-339-4700 Caldwell Banker Ellen Lancaster
\$1,650,000 6601 Elverton Drive 3BD/2.5BA Sun 2-4:30 Caldwell Banker Judy Ackerman	\$2,299,000 5952 Buena Vista 5+BD/4BA Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors Kelly Deal
\$2,299,000 5952 Buena Vista 5+BD/4BA Sun 2-4 Alain Pinel Realtors Kelly Deal	\$4,000,000 21 Drury Court 5BD/5.5BA Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC Susan Peterson/Gianna Mayo
Orinda	Orinda
\$769,000 24 Mariposa 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30pm Pacific Union GMAC Leslie Lavan	\$1,149,000 67 Charles Hill Rd 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30pm Charles Hill 888-50-HOME-1 Keller Williams Realty Ismail Abdullah
\$1,149,000 67 Charles Hill Rd 4BD/2BA Open Sun 2-4:30pm Charles Hill 888-50-HOME-1 Keller Williams Realty Ismail Abdullah	\$1,895,000 92 Southwood Drive 4BD/2.5BA Sun 1-4 Pacific Union GMAC Mark April
\$2,798,000 59 Tiger Tail 4BD/4.5BA Sun 1-4 Caldwell Banker Maureen Wilbur Linda Van Drent	\$2,798,000 59 Tiger Tail 4BD/4.5BA Sun 1-4 Caldwell Banker Maureen Wilbur Linda Van Drent
Piedmont	Piedmont
\$725,000 9 Cambridge Way 2+BD/1BA Open Sun 2-4:30pm walkersrealty.com Terri Bates Walker	\$995,000 212 Pala Avenue 5BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30pm Grubb Co. Hope Broderick
\$995,000 212 Pala Avenue 5BD/3BA Sun 2-4:30pm Grubb Co. Hope Broderick	\$1,095,000 29 Vista Ave. 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30pm Pacific Union GMAC Georgina Cornell
\$1,190,000 99 Oakmont Ave 3BD/2BA Sun 2-4:30pm Prudential Mary Dresser	\$1,250,000 11 Calvert Court 5BD/3BA Open Sun 2-4:30pm The Grubb Co. Angela Wei Grubb

Piedmont		
\$1,395,000 Sun 2-4:30pm Prudential	172 Mountain Ave	4BD/2.5BA 510-339-9290 George Millions
\$1,395,000 Sun 2-4:30pm Grubb Co.	18 Manor Drive	3+BD/2+BA 510-339-0400 Mavis Delacroix
\$1,948,000 Sun 2-5 Caldwell Banker	132 Bonita Avenue	3+BD/2.5BA 925-253-4601 Jerilyn Babington
\$1,995,000 Sun 2-4:30pm Grubb Co.	190 Sandringham Road	4BD/4+BA 510-339-0400 Anjan Pettit Tunne
\$2,150,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	561 Blair Avenue	4+BD/3.5BA 510-339-0400 Mindy Scott
\$3,200,000 Open Sun 2-4:30 The Grubb Co.	50 Sotelo Avenue	5BD/4.5BA 510-339-0400 Elizabeth Dickson
Richmond		
\$370,000 Open Sun 1-4pm Security Pacific	5531 Carl	2BD/1BA 510-612-1823 Paul Triplett
\$379,000 Open Sun 2-4pm Security Pacific	461 Key Blvd	2BD/1BA 510-662-8558 carladellazoppa.com
\$419,000 Sun 1:30-4 Caldwell Banker	4387 Nelson Drive	3BD/1.5BA 510-486-1495 Rita Zwerdling
\$439,000 Open Sun 2-4pm Marvin Gardens	5625 Columbia Ave	2BD/1BA 510-527-9111 Joan Underwood
\$469,000 Open Sun 2-4pm Marvin Gardens	5600 Van Fleet Ave	3BD/1BA 510-527-9111 Joan Underwood
\$469,000 Open Sun 2-4pm Security Pacific	626 Sonoma	3BD/1BA 510-662-8558 carladellazoppa.com
\$489,000 Open Sun 2-4pm Marvin Gardens	794 35th St	3BD/2BA 510-231-1640 Jerl Janes
\$549,000 Open Sun 1:30-4pm Security Pacific	6078 Monterey	3BD/2BA 510-662-8469 geristern.com
\$625,000 Open Sun 1-5pm Kayfetz & Associates	5270 Heavenly Ridge Ln	3BD/2.5BA 510-703-6212 Lynne
Rodeo		
\$539,000 Sun 2-4pm Prudential	744 Windward Dr Viewpoint	4BD/2BA 510-868-1465 Amy & Rod
San Pablo		
\$699,000 Open Sun 2-4 C21 Heritage	2802 10th St.	4 Units 510-332-8852 Victor Fierro
Vallejo		
\$350,000 Open Sun 2-4pm Prudential	309 Stageline Dr	2BD/1BA 510-868-1454 Caroline
\$379,000 Open Sun 2-4pm Ted Oak Realty	2500 Alameda	2BD/1BA 510-717-2215 Dianne Arancibia
\$419,000 Open Sun 2-4pm Prudential	505 Maple Ave	3BD/2BA 510-287-5764 Mayling Trinh
\$488,000 Sat. 12-2pm Ballagher & Lindsey Inc.	7601 Princess Diana Court	3BD/2BA 510-748-1122 Carol Martinez
Marin County		
\$345,000 Sat. & Sun. 2-4pm Ballagher & Lindsey Inc.	1542 Center Rd. #95, Novato	2BD/1.5BA 510-748-1155 Tom Proudfoot

ALAMEDA



3410 BRITHORN LANE \$349,000
Garden Isle Open Sat. & Sun. 2-4
 Spacious 2 story townhome with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. New carpeting in living room & stairs, beautifully painted, new ceiling in living area, newly landscaped patio & upgraded lighting fixtures. Easy "City" commute & walking distance to "Bay Trail".
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Angela McIntyre 510-377-7733



1205 CORAL REEF PLACE \$689,000
South Shore Open Sat. & Sun. 2-4
 Ranch style home with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths & huge yard. Living room with brick fireplace, ceiling fan & carpeting, dining room with tile flooring. Newly landscaped front yard and a great play structure in the back yard. Walk to beach.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Pam Paulson 510-748-1178



1734 UNION ST. \$440,000
Central Alameda By Appointment Only
 Beautiful bungalow with newer roof, gutters, exterior and interior and paint. Hardwood flooring in the living room and dining room, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, great garden in the front yard and a detached garage. This home is a must see.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Eric Tam 510-748-1135



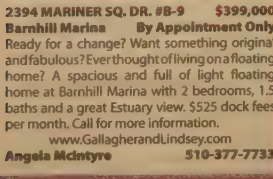
2212 BUENA VISTA AVE. \$699,000
2 Units By Appointment Only
 Legal 2 units: a 2 bedroom, 1 bath and a 1 bedroom, 1 bath. Can easily be converted to a 3 bedroom, 2 bath large single family residence with approx. 1800 sqft. Hardwood floors, fireplace, attached garage. Inside laundry in each unit. Close to transportation & Park Street Business District.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Moon Tam 510-747-1620



935 SANTA CLARA AVE. \$1,490,000
8 Units By Appointment Only
 8 units on a large corner lot located near public transit, schools & shopping. All units have hardwood floors & separate meters. Laundry facilities are on the property plus off street parking and newer roof.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Mary Carder 510-523-7752



2146 CLINTON AVE. \$695,000
Central Alameda By Appointment Only
 Three units in prime residential location. Each unit has 1 bedroom, 1 bath plus an extra room. Great property - live in larger unit, rent the others. Great potential! Great area with lots of off street parking.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Alice Garvin 510-748-1116



2394 MARINER SQ. DR. #B-9 \$399,000
Barnhill Marina By Appointment Only
 Ready for a change? Want something original and fabulous? Ever thought of living on a floating home? A spacious and full of light floating home at Barnhill Marina with 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths and a great Estuary view. \$525 dock fees per month. Call for more information.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Angela McIntyre 510-377-7733

Gallagher & Lindsey

REALTORS

Basoras Deliver Keys To Success

When Rolando and Coqui Basora decided to make a career change they knew they wanted three things; to work with people from different cultures, to help people make smart financial decisions, and to utilize their business experience. Pursuing careers in real estate was the perfect match.

"The most satisfying part of real estate for us," says Rolando, "is when we deliver the keys to our clients and we see how very happy they are." As a project manager in the high-tech industry, Rolando spent twenty-five years implementing business systems internationally. "I loved working with different cultures," he says, "but I felt removed from really helping people."

"Living in the east bay for twenty years," says Coqui, "we wanted to help other people realize their dreams of owning their own homes."

Originally born in Mexico, both Rolando and Coqui are fluent in English and Spanish and are proud members of the strong Hispanic community in the bay area. Two of the founding members of La Conexión, a group of Spanish-speaking Realtors, lenders, and title companies, specifically formed

to help the Hispanic community with their real estate needs, Rolando and Coqui take part in sponsoring free La Conexión informational seminars for the Hispanic community every Saturday at 11:00 am at the Gallagher and Lindsey offices. "It is important," Rolando says, "to not only help our clients buy and sell their homes but to really help them understand how to make smart financial decisions in real estate."



On a recent listing for a client, Rolando and Coqui did just that. They knew their client could get more money for their condo if they did a few minor upgrades. Their clients agreed with their suggestions and painted, put in a new carpet, repaired a closet door, and de-cluttered a number of rooms. The client was thrilled when they received multi offers, all above the asking price.

"We have a personal touch," says Rolando, "we are professional, honest, and very dedicated to helping our clients succeed. It's a great feeling to build a community of people we have helped."

For more information on buying or selling your home, or on La Conexión, please contact Rolando and Coqui Basora at (510) 748-1166.

Rolando & Coqui Basora
 Realtors™

Did You Miss Our Last Career Night?

Come prepared to explore your career options with Gallagher & Lindsey. Our last career night was a great success but space is limited. Call Karen or Tim ASAP if you plan to attend this special event. We'll be featuring our guest agent Kirk Knight who transitioned successfully from another career. Contact Karen or Tim at (510) 748-1771 for reservations and more info on our program.

Next Career Night @ G&L
May 10th, 6pm sharp
at 2424 Central Ave, Alameda

ALAMEDA



1648 VERSAILLES AVE. \$825,000
Fernside Area By Appointment Only
 Traditional Fernside home near Edison School. Elegant & large living room with fireplace & built-ins, formal dining room overlooking the patio, breakfast nook off the kitchen & 2 bonus rooms in the garage area. Grace & Charm throughout this 3 bedroom home.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 John Seibach 510-748-1170

1505 CENTRAL AVE. \$950,000
Central Alameda By Appointment Only
 3 UNITS. Each unit has 2 bedrooms, and 1 bath. Unit "C" has recently been remodeled and a new roof has been installed. The living rooms and dining rooms have hardwood floors and each unit has 2 off street parking spaces. This triplex is close to schools and transportation.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Al Wagner 510-748-1123

COMING SOON Harbor Bay
 Impeccable home with new roof, new double pane windows and new two zone heater. Great floor plan with that perfect retreat area off the master suite. Tranquil newly fenced yard with fruit trees.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

COMING SOON Harbor Bay
 Impeccable home with new roof, new double pane windows and new two zone heater. Great floor plan with that perfect retreat area off the master suite. Tranquil newly fenced yard with fruit trees.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

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 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

ALAMEDA



1515 - 4th STREET \$878,000
West End Pending
 Lovely Transitional Colonial Revival home. Sits on a large corner lot with stunning gardens. Step inside and you will find a spacious living room, formal dining room and French doors that beckon you into the sunroom. The kitchen has 2+ bonus rooms for home offices. 3+ bedrooms, 2+ baths with a master suite, large master bath and sunny private deck.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Constance Farber 510-748-1126

COMING SOON Harbor Bay
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 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

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 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

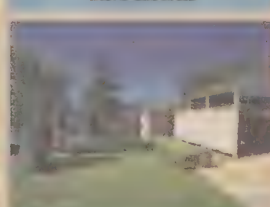
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 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

HAYWARD



22680 VALLEY VIEW DR. \$549,000
Hayward Hills By Appointment Only
 This home borders the San Lorenzo Creek. Originally a 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home, but over the years has grown to a 4 bedroom with additional living space in the back designed with full length windows overlooking the swimming pool and trees. Virtual tour at www.KeikoSellsHomes.com.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Keiko McDonah 510-522-4449

22539 CENTER ST. \$376,000
Condo Pending
 Conveniently located off Hwy 238, this top floor stunning 2 bedroom, 2 bath end unit has been completely transformed. The kitchen is updated with all stainless steel appliances and blue antique granite counter tops. Virtual tour at www.KeikoSellsHomes.com.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Keiko McDonah 510-522-4449

COMING SOON Harbor Bay
 Impeccable home with new roof, new double pane windows and new two zone heater. Great floor plan with that perfect retreat area off the master suite. Tranquil newly fenced yard with fruit trees.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

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 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

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 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

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 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ruth Masonek 510-748-1101

VALLEJO



7601 PRINCESS DIANA CT. \$444,000
Tiara Development Open Saturday
 Located in a gated community, this 3 bedroom, 2 bath luxury townhome has many custom shades, security system, recessed lighting, tile flooring and counter top. Wired for stereo system, gas line for patio, hot tub in large landscaped back yard. Close to shopping, a park and transit.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Carol Martinez 510-748-1178

NOVATO



1542 CENTER ROAD #95 \$349,000
Center Place Open Sat. & Sun. 2-4
 Your very own home! This 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath condo is perfect for the first time homebuyer. In move-in condition! Brand new carpet, kitchen & bathroom tile floors and counters. Center Place is in downtown Novato close to shopping and transportation. One assigned parking space in underground garage. Community pool and laundry facilities.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Tom Proudfoot 510-748-1178

BERKELEY



2444 VIRGINIA ST. #A \$539,000
UC Area By Appointment Only
 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo near UC Berkeley. The Gourmet Ghetto and transiting Mediterranean style building with charm, courtyard entry, Light and Bright, hardwood floors, formal living room with vaulted ceiling & fireplace. Detached garage with washer/dryer & small private outdoor area for BBQ & enjoying your coffee & newspapers.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Ann Bracci 510-748-1178

PATTERSON



13559 SYCAMORE \$1,990,000
LOOKING FOR A HOME
 Approximately 15 acres of flat ground with large main house of about 3800 sqft that was built in 2003 and extra living space of 1200 sqft across the driveway.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Joe LePore 510-748-1178
 Mario & Wendy Mariani 510-748-1178

OAKLAND



3225 WISCONSIN \$679,000
Laurel District By Appointment Only
 Mediterranean Masterpiece! This 1930s home, 1 bath home is graceful, sweet, simple design - arched doorways, restored interior trim, fireplace & hardwood floors. Beautiful gardens plus an adjacent soft shop. Shaded by an elegant tree, comfortable layout & warm fresh interior makes this home a treasure.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Jim Nations 510-301-4449

1241 HIGH STREET \$749,000
Light Industrial By Appointment Only
 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY. This 1902 building survived the big 1906 and 1989 earthquakes with no damage. Includes a front office, kitchen, baths and parking for 5 or 6 cars. Zoned for light industrial, the lot is under 1/4 acre with the building approximately 6600 square feet. Fruitvale BART station and several AC transit lines stop at the corner.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Linda Murphy 510-268-2202 / 510-748-1178

2542 SCENIC AVE. \$339,000
Oakland By Appointment Only
 VACANT LOT located in desirable neighborhood. Zoned R-30 for a single dwelling plus a secondary unit according to information. City Planning Department can be contacted for uses and regulations.
 www.GallagherandLindsey.com
 Jose Carda-Zeln 510-748-1178

Disclaimer: Sales data compiled from FBRD using Oakland Map 2600, designated as neighborhood 'Melrose' for detached single family residential sales in 2004. This information is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to be used as a basis for any financial decision.

510.521.8181
www.GallagherandLindsey.com

☆ West End Alameda - 1410 Webster Street ☆ East End Alameda - 2424 Central Avenue

NOW PLAYING

are capsule reviews of movies playing at area theaters. Reviewers: Mary F. Pols, Times; Robert W. Riskey, Knight Ridder; Brad Bruce Newman, San Jose Mercury News; David Germain, Associated Press; Ben Nuckols, Associated Press; Anita Gates, Dave Kehr, Los Angeles Times; A.O. Scott, New York Daily News; Phoebe Green, South Florida Sun-Sentinel; David Karger, San Francisco Chronicle; Glenn Whipp, Los Angeles Times; Carina Chocano, Los Angeles Times; Manolia Dargis, Kevin Maizel, and Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times; Ed Bark, Nancy Churnin, John Dowell, Tom Maustard, Chris Hine, Philip Wurtch, Dallas Morning Star; Jay Boyar and Roger Moore, San Antonio Sentinel; Carla Meyer, Sacramento Bee; Ty Burr, Wesley Morris, Boston Herald; John Hunter, Michael O'Sullivan, Boston Herald; and Jason Thompson, Washington Post.

"MENS OF THE DEEP": When director James Cameron proclaimed "Men of the Deep" as the most important kind of the world, who knew that Kings of the Sea was the only movie that was the rest of the world? This IMAX-3D film is a hybrid of underwater documentary and outer-space fantasy. — (G) 48 minutes. A

"MIDWINTER HORROR": The latest version of the iconic '70s "true" story about a house with evil intentions. The story has been made over and over, with the lead character, George, fully possessed. Plus the house has been relocated to a more up-to-date setting, not nearly as enjoyable as the nameless suburban setting. The film is fairly standard, but the acting is good and its got a nice '70s feel. — M. Pols. (R: violence, disturbing images, language, brief sexual references.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. C

"THE BALLAD OF JACK AND ROSE": Writer/director Rebecca Miller takes on a topic few filmmakers dare to touch, the corruption of love, with astonishing compassion, keen intelligence and a delicate but always sure touch. Daniel Craig plays Jack, a '60s idealist who has done with his 16-year-old daughter on an island off the East coast. Alluring and fearful of his growing feelings for his child, he invites his girlfriend and her sons to move in. The film is emotional and beautiful. — M. Pols. (R: language, sexual content, some drug use.) 1 hour, 51 minutes. A

"BEAUTY SHOP": A spinoff of the series "Barbershop," which should

spell disaster but doesn't. Stylist Gina (Queen Latifah) starts over in Atlanta. She works briefly for a flamboyant egomaniac named Jorge (Kevin James) at the uptight salon, then strikes out on her own with a klatch of outspoken hairdressers. Funny, warm and really good-natured, with more than a few truths about family values and real life. — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual material, language, brief drug references.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B

"BE COOL!": Chili Palmer (John Travolta) is tired of movies and wants to check out the music scene in this "Get Shorty" sequel that attempts to satirize the music industry in the same way its predecessor satirized the movie business. This move allows him to hook up, confusingly, with his "Pulp Fiction" co-star Uma Thurman, who plays the head of a small record company. Travolta is pleasing, but the supporting talent, from Vince Vaughn to Cedric the Entertainer, is wasted. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, sensuality, language, including sexual references.) 1 hour, 54 minutes. C-

"BORN INTO BROTHELS": An Oscar-winning documentary about the children of prostitutes who live in Calcutta's red-light district. Photographer (and co-director) Zana Briski gives a group of the kids point-and-shoot cameras, and from that, their worlds open up to the possibility of hope. The film, which takes a clear-eyed, non-sentimental viewpoint, brings us to a place we've never seen otherwise, gives us a poignant lesson in the difficulties of saving those who seem doomed, and reminds us how the force of beauty can exist in the ugliest of places and circumstances. — M. Pols. (R: some sequences of strong language.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. A-

"DEAR FRANKIE": While this fragile tale spins a mournfully sweet drama of family bonds, it remains firmly rooted in the bleak industrial grip of the Scottish seaside port where it is set. Frankie is a 9-year-old deaf boy perpetually on the move with his mother, Lizzie (Emily Mortimer), and grandma, who fear the boy's absent father. Unable to bring herself to share the cold truth with Frankie, his mother has concocted an elaborate fantasy about a distant dad sailing the seas on a commercial vessel. — D. Germain. (PG-13: language.) 1 hour, 45 minutes. B+

"DON'T MOVE": The interestingly overripe art-house potboiler is a paranoid male fantasy about cheating, with surface similarities to Hollywood movies such as "Fatal Attraction" and "Unfaithful." This one's Italian,

though, and its attitude toward adultery is more European. Fate has many punishments in store for Timoteo, the overconfident surgeon played by actor/director Sergio Castellitto, but compared with what happens to his girlfriend (Penelope Cruz), he gets off with a slap on the wrist. — T. Burr. (R: nudity, violence, sexual content; in Italian with subtitles.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. C

"DOWNFALL": Bruno Ganz gives a remarkable performance as Adolf Hitler, portrayed here in his final days. Holed up in a bunker in Berlin, he alternates between denial, fury, melancholy and insanity. Given the subject matter and the resounding lack of a likable protagonist, the movie is, naturally, bleak as can be, but riveting. Based in part on the account of Hitler's secretary, Traudi Junge (played here by the luminous Alexandra Maria Lara), subject of the recent documentary "Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary." — M. Pols. (R: strong violence, disturbing images and some nudity.) 2 hours, 28 minutes. B+

"EROS": A collection of three short films by distinguished filmmakers — Italy's Michelangelo Antonioni, Hong Kong's Wong Kar Wai and America's Steven Soderbergh — each on the subject of sex and desire. Boiled down to their primary impressions, the Chinese story is tragic, the American one's neurotic and, after some emphatic arguments about love, the Italian one gets down to the business of bawdy nude women jumping up and down. — B. Strauss. (R: strong sexual content, including graphic nudity and profanity.) 1 hour, 44 minutes. B

"FEVER PITCH": A charming but very loose adaptation of Nick Hornby's memoir about his passion for soccer. Now it's about a schoolteacher named Ben (Jimmy Fallon), who loves the Red Sox so much it may ruin his chances at romantic love with an adorable male whiz (Drew Barrymore). This doesn't have the bite of earlier Hornby adaptations like "High Fidelity," but it's consistently sweet and funny. Sports widows, rejoice: Your story has been told. — M. Pols. (PG-13: crude and sexual humor, some sensuality.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. B

"THE GAME OF THEIR LIVES": This fact-based movie spends most of its time telling viewers that the bush-league U.S. team's trip to the World Cup in 1950 is an inspirational story. Yet it never comes across emotionally. At its heart is goalie Frank Borghi, who was among a group of early soccer devotees in an Italian-

American neighborhood in St. Louis who were hatched to an East Coast squad to form the makeshift U.S. team that went to the World Cup in Brazil. — D. Germain. (PG: mild language, thematic elements.) 1 hour, 41 minutes. C

"HITCH": Will Smith is ultra-charming as the title character in this light romantic comedy about a Manhattan man who runs a dating consulting business for men looking for love. As "The Date Doctor," and as cynical and fearful of love as he is, Hitch finds his life unsettled when he meets a beautiful gossip columnist (Eva Mendes). Has some contrivances of the genre, but still fun. With TV's Kevin James as Hitch's most challenging client. — M. Pols. (PG-13: language, some strong sexual references.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. B-

"HOTEL RWANDA": A story so powerful and interesting that flaws in the storytelling don't much matter. Don Cheadle stars as real-life hero Paul Rusesabagina, a hotel manager in the capital of Rwanda. He's made a career out of being obsequious, but when ethnic violence breaks out and Hutu begin massacring Tutsis, he must make a stand. Through quiet intelligence and his own willingness to be humble, he saves more than 1,200 people. An Oscar-worthy performance by Cheadle. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, disturbing images and brief, strong language.) 2 hours, 1 minute. A-

"ICE PRINCESS": Casey is a serious skater and a science nerd. Joan Cusack plays her single mom, living out her fantasy through her soon-to-be-a-Harvard-physics-major daughter. Casey seems to share that dream, forgoing a social life to do a project for a big physics scholarship. But in doing so, she uncovers the physics of great skating technique. What plays out amid Casey's new social interaction with her fellow skaters and her accidental discovery of her graceful side is nothing less than a struggle for the girl's mortal soul. — R. Moore. (G) 1 hour, 38 minutes. B

"THE INTERPRETER": An old-fashioned thriller from director Sydney Pollack, the film is intelligently plotted, well-acted and of timely subject matter, but so diligent it feels less exciting than it ought. Nicole Kidman plays a United Nations interpreter who overhears an assassination plot, which coincidentally involves the despot who rules her (fictional) native land in Africa. Sean Penn is the Secret Service agent who doesn't know whether to frisk her or fall in love with her. Kidman is marvelous, but Penn is

OPENING TODAY

"ENRON: THE SMARTEST GUYS IN THE ROOM" (NR)
This award-winning documentary about the Enron scandal is adapted from the book written by Fortune reporters.

"HARRY AND MAX" (NR)
Director Christopher Munch ("The Sleepy Time Gal") offers a controversial story of two brothers with an intense physical and emotional relationship.

"THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY" (PG)
Adapted from the popular book series, this comedy about a man (Martin Freeman) swept off Earth by an alien friend just before it's destroyed features Mos Def and Sam Rockwell.

"HOUSE OF D" (PG-13)
A young boy and his best friend, a mentally handicapped middle-aged

janitor (Robin Williams), share adventures and heartbreak in 1970s Greenwich Village, in a story directed by David Duchovny.

"IT'S ALL GONE PETE TONG" (R)
This biopic of legendary disc jockey Frankie Wilde, whose life of excess made him deaf, features performances by many real DJs, including Pete Tong.

"16 YEARS OF ALCOHOL" (R)
In Edinburgh, over the course of three distinct periods of his life, a young man confronts his relationship with alcohol. The story is taken from actor/writer Richard Jobson's semiautobiographical novel.

"XXX: STATE OF THE UNION" (PG-13)
Ice Cube takes up Vin Diesel's action franchise, playing a bad boy secret agent. Samuel L. Jackson returns as the recruiter.

burdened by an unnecessary back story and they lack chemistry. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, some sexual content and brief strong language.) 2 hours, 8 minutes. B-

"KUNG FU HUSTLE": Writer-director Stephen Chow has created a hyper-animated fantasy world that honors kung fu movies as it satirizes them, and the similarities between it and a cartoon are entirely intentional. He samples classic comedy and neo-pop-infected sci-fi to come up with something that looks like the Marx Brothers meet "The Matrix." — B. Newman. (R: strong stylized action, violence, in Cantonese and Mandarin with subtitles.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. B

"LOOK AT ME": The characters in this insightful and very funny social satire are desperate for attention. Etienne is a celebrated novelist: smart, funny and something of a monster, a man whose narcissism blinds him to everyone around him — including his 20-year-old daughter, Lolita, a shy, overweight young woman profoundly resentful of her father's power and neglect. — G. Whipp. (PG-13: brief language, a sexual reference; in French with subtitles.) 1 hour, 50 minutes. B+

"A LOT LIKE LOVE": The unremarkable romantic comedy features Ashton Kutcher and Amanda Peet as occasional lovers and friends who spend seven years figuring out they should be more. The movie stays afloat on the basis of Peet's charm and, surprisingly, Kutcher's. But we've seen this one before, not just in "When Harry Met Sally," but in its various progeny, such as "Serendipity." — M. Pols. (PG-13: sexual content, nudity and language.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. C

"MELINDA AND MELINDA": Not quite a return to form for director Woody Allen, but an improvement on his recent films. The story is told two ways, comically and then tragically. A woman in distress, Melinda, barges in on a dinner party, beginning two different chains of events. She is played in both cases by Radha Mitchell ("High Art"), who is surprisingly good. So is Will Ferrell, who makes the most sweetly appealing stand-in for Allen in years. If the goal is to teach us something profound about the crossover between comedy and tragedy, the movie doesn't succeed, but we do have a fun time. — M. Pols. (PG-13: adult situations involving sexuality, some substance material.) 1 hour, 39 minutes. B

"MILLIONS": A tender tale with a buoyant sense of magical realism and a sneaky little moral lesson that centers on 7-year-old Damian and his 9-year-old brother, Anthony. After their mother's death, the boys are up-

rooted by their father to start over in a new housing tract in the British countryside. When a suitcase full of cash falls from the sky into their cardboard box hideout, Damian begins doling out the money to people who seem in need. Anthony, meanwhile, sets himself up as top dog at his new school. — D. Germain. (PG: thematic elements, language, some peril and mild sensuality.) 1 hour, 37 minutes. B

"MILLION DOLLAR BABY": Clint Eastwood directs and stars in the story of an ambitious boxer, Maggie (Hilary Swank), and her crusty but adored trainer, Frankie (Eastwood). The picture is very good, mostly for the interesting twist it takes midway, but it's over-hyped and laced with trite elements, including the voice-over narration of Morgan Freeman, who plays Frankie's only friend and right-hand man. — M. Pols. (PG-13: violence, some disturbing images, thematic material and language.) 2 hours, 12 minutes. B+

"MISS CONGENIALITY 2: ARMED AND FABULOUS": Armed? Yes. Fabulous? Hardly. Sandra Bullock stars in this predictable and far less likable sequel to "Miss Congeniality." The story is flimsy, the antics inconsistent and the characters flexing for one garish sight gag after another. With Regina King and William Shatner; Benjamin Bratt wisely bowed out this time. — D. Germain. (PG-13: sex-related humor.) 1 hour, 55 minutes. D+

"OLDBOY": This Korean film has everything the arbiters of cool grove on — sex, violence and head games — all executed with considerable panache. No wonder "Oldboy" and its director, Park Chan-wook, are being hailed as the new, new, not really new thing. Like "Memento" it is fueled by a mystery that deepens as it goes on, and like that movie, it has an aura of almost clinical detachment. My mind was engaged, but never my heart. — M. Pols. (R: violence, disturbing images, language, brief sexuality, drug use.) 2 hours. C

"THE PACIFIER": Vin Diesel is a SEAL charged with looking after the kids of a murdered security expert whose wife has gone to Zurich to try to retrieve the family's supersensitive missile launch-code encrypting program. There's a troubled teen, a lanky daughter about to fall in with the wrong guy, a cookie-obsessed middle child, a toddler who needs a special dance performed before he'll go to sleep and an infant given to projectile vomiting. Not to mention ninjas busting in and trying to steal the encryption gadget from the house. — G. Whipp. (PG-13: language.) 1 hour, 31 minutes. D

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FRIDAY MOVIE LISTINGS

Admission for Friday April 29
Alameda County
Act 1 and 2
1000 Grand St., Berkeley 510-777-3456
"Men of the Deep" (R) 7, 9, 15
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 7, 15, 9, 30

Albany Twin
1515 Albany Ave., Albany 510-777-3456
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1, 15, 4, 6, 45, 9, 20
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1, 15, 4, 6, 45, 9, 20

AMC Bay Street 16
2230 Bay Street, Emeryville 510-457-4262
"Midwinter Horror" (R) 2:10, 4:30, 7, 9, 15, 10:30
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4, 7, 05, 9:55
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1:10, 4, 7, 05, 9:55
"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" (PG) 1:30, 2:30, 4:05, 5:15, 7:10, 8, 9, 30, 10:30
"Melinda and Melinda" (PG-13) 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 9:15
"The Princess" (G) 1:45, 4:25, 6:55, 9:30
"The Interpreter" (PG-13) 1:15, 2:15, 4:20, 5, 7, 15, 8:15, 10:15, 11:15
"The Pacifier" (PG) 12:45, 3, 5:25, 7:55, 9:45
"Million Dollar Baby" 12:55, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15
"Sahara" (PG-13) 1:20, 4:15, 7:30, 10:25
"Sin City" (R) 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:40
"Upstate of Anger" (R) 1:55, 4:50, 7:35, 10:25
"State of the Union" (PG) 1:20, 4:20, 6:40, 9:30, 10:30, 11:10

California Theatre
1000 Grand St., Berkeley 510-777-3456
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Chobot Space & Science Center
1000 Grand St., Berkeley 510-336-7000
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Emwood 3
1000 Grand St., Berkeley 510-649-0530
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Renaissance Grand Lake
1000 Grand St., Berkeley 510-453-3558
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Oaks Theatre
1000 Grand St., Berkeley 510-626-1836
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Parkway Speakeasy Theatre
1000 Grand St., Berkeley 510-814-2400
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Piedmont Theatre
1000 Grand St., Berkeley 510-777-3456
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Regal Jack London
1000 Grand St., Berkeley 510-433-1320
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
"Men of the Deep" (R) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Kung Fu Hustle (R) 12:15, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:20
Renaissance Park Theatre
3519 Golden Gate Way., Lafayette 925-283-7997
"Millions" (PG) 1, 3, 5, 7, 15, 9, 15

Century 16 Hilltop
3020 Klose Way, Richmond 510-758-2345
"The Amityville Horror" (R) 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6, 8, 05, 10:15
"Beauty Shop" (PG-13) 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:55
"Fever Pitch" (PG-13) 11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:35
"Guess Who" (PG-13) 5, 7, 25, 10:05
"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" (PG) 11:30, 12:30, 2, 3, 4:30, 5:30, 7, 8, 9:30, 10:30
"The Interpreter" (PG-13) 12:25, 1:45, 3:20, 4:40, 6:15, 7:30, 9:15, 10:20
"King's Ransom" (PG-13) 12:10, 2:30, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
"Kung Fu Hustle" (R) 11:50, 1, 2:25, 3:25, 4:50, 5:50, 7:20, 8:10, 10:30
"A Lot Like Love" (PG-13) 12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:35, 10:10
"Robots" (PG) 11:55, 2:35
"Sahara" (PG-13) 11:35, 2:20, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25
"Sin City" (R) 9:50
"XXX: State of the Union" (PG-13) 11:20, 12:15, 1:05, 1:50, 2:45, 3:35, 4:20, 5:10, 5:55, 6:50, 7:40, 8:35, 9:20, 9:55

San Francisco
AMC Van Ness 14
1000 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco 415-922-4262
"The Amityville Horror" (R) 1:20, 3:30, 5:35, 7:50, 10, 12:05
"Fever Pitch" (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" (PG) 11:30, 12:30, 2, 3, 4:45, 5:45, 7:15, 8:15, 9:20, 10:15, 11:45, 12:15
"The Interpreter" (PG-13) 10:40, 11:40, 1:30, 2:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30, 8:30, 10:20, 11:20
"King's Ransom" (PG-13) 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:10, 10:40
"Kung Fu Hustle" (R) 1, 3:20, 5:40, 8, 10:25
"A Lot Like Love" (PG-13) 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
"Sahara" (PG-13) 10:30, 1:15, 4:10, 7, 9:55
"Sin City" (R) 10:50, 12:50, 1:40, 3:40, 4:40, 6:30, 7:30, 9:40, 10:30
"XXX: State of the Union" (PG-13) 11, 12, 1:45, 2:45, 4:20, 5:20, 6:45, 7:45, 9:15, 9:45, 11:40, 12:10

AMC Kabuki 8
1881 Post Street, San Francisco 415-922-4262
"San Francisco International Film Festival"
Bridge Theatre
3010 Geary Blvd., San Francisco 415-777-3456
"It's All Gone Pete Tong" (R) 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30
Castro Theatre
429 Castro St., San Francisco 415-621-6120
"Cast Theatre for movies and times."
Clay Theatre
2281 Filmore Street, San Francisco 415-777-3456
"Downfall" (R) 4:45, 8:15
"Mean Girls" (PG-13) 12

Embarcadero Center Cinemas
1 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco 415-777-3456
"Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room" (Not Rated) 12, 1:15, 2:30, 3:45, 5:05, 6:45, 7:40, 9:20, 10:15
"House of D" (PG-13) 12:10, 2:40, 5, 7:30, 9:50
"Look At Me" (PG-13) 1, 4, 7, 9:40
"The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill" (G) 12:20, 2:25, 4:30, 7:20, 9:30

Lumiere Theatre
1572 California St., San Francisco 415-777-3456
"Don't Move" (Not Rated) 1:15, 4, 6:45, 9:25
"Harry and Max" (Not Rated) 1, 3, 5, 7:15, 9:45
"Millions" (PG) 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:35

Opera Plaza Cinema
601 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco 415-777-3456
"16 Years of Alcohol" (R) 2, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30
"Melinda and Melinda" (PG-13) 1:45, 4:15, 7, 9:20
"Oldboy" (R) 2:15, 5, 8
"Walk on Water" (R) 1:30, 4, 6:45, 9:10

The Red Vic Theatre
1727 Haight, San Francisco 415-668-3994
"The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou" (R) 7, 9:35

The Roxie Theatre
3117 16th Al Valencia, San Francisco 415-863-1087
"The Girl From Monday" (NR) 6, 8, 10

Loews Theatres Metreon
101 Fourth St., San Francisco 415-369-6201
"The Amityville Horror" (R) 11:01, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:30, 11:40
"Fever Pitch" (PG-13) 3:30, 6:25, 9:20
"The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" (PG) 11, 12:10, 2:50, 4:40, 5:40, 7:30, 8:50, 10:20, 11:20
"The Interpreter" (PG-13) 11:20, 12:20, 1:20, 2:40, 3:40, 4:50, 5, 7, 8:10, 9:10, 10:10, 11:30
"King's Ransom" (PG-13) 1, 3:50, 6:20, 8:40, 11:10
"Kung Fu Hustle" (R) 10:40, 11:40, 12:30, 4, 5:30, 6:50, 8:20, 9:40, 11
"A Lot Like Love" (PG-13) 11:15, 2, 5, 7:50, 10:30
"Sahara" (PG-13) 12, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50
"Sin City" (R) 10:50, 1:30, 4:30, 7:40, 10:40
"XXX: State of the Union" (PG-13) 11:30, 12:30, 2:20, 3:20, 5:10, 6:10, 7:10, 8, 9, 10, 10:50, 11:50

Loews IMAX Theatre
101 Fourth Street, San Francisco 415-369-6201
"Aliens of the Deep" (G) 10:30, 5:20
"Robots: IMAX Experience" (PG) 12, 2:10

United Artists Galaxy 4
1285 Sutter St., San Francisco 415-474-8700
"Born into Brothels" (R) 7:20, 7:20
"Monty Python and the Holy Grail" (PG) 2:50, 7:05
"Monty Python's Life of Brian" (R) 12:40, 4:55, 9:15
"Upside of Anger" (R) 1:10, 4:20, 7, 9:35
"A Wake in Providence" (R) 4:10, 9:25
"Walk on Water" (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:35

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NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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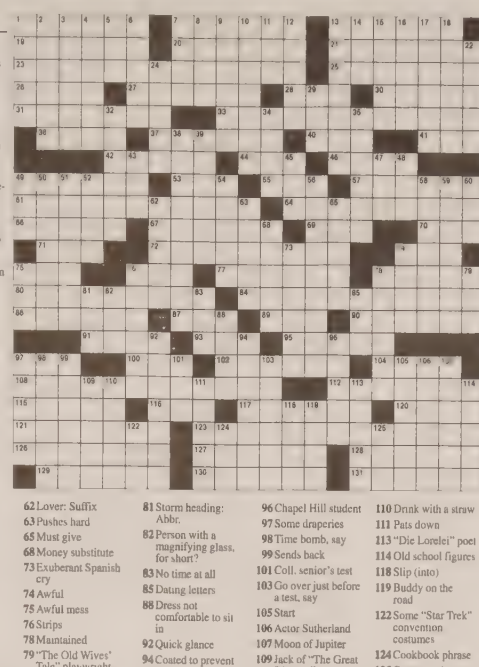
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129 Relative of a blow fly
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131 They're good for crowds

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39 Turned on
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45 Lose it, with "out"
47 Trip part
48 Show obscenity
49 Sadder's tool
50 Dumbfounded expression
51 Designer Miller and Wilsey
52 Route west of Jacksonville, Fla.
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56 College sports stand-out
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Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

"ROBOTS": A kids' movie about robots, entirely generated by computer. Where's the humanity? Well, it surfaces too often in the form of crude, adult-oriented humor and violence. That's unfortunate, because the underlying themes (preservation, the vagaries of capitalism) are so clever and worthy. Boy robot from a blue-collar family (voiced by Ewan McGregor) hopes to go to work for his hero, a famous inventor. He discovers the inventor has been given a golden parachute and the new CEO has nefarious plans to stop manufacturing replacement parts for old robots. — M. Pols. (PG: some brief language and suggestive humor.) 1 hour, 31 minutes. C+

"SAHARA": A bloated, wannabe Indiana Jones-style action flick, starring Matthew McConaughey as explorer Dirk Pitt (the subject of author Clive Cussler's best-selling series). His quest for a lost Civil War ship overlaps with a beautiful scientist's (Penelope Cruz) investigation into a possible plague in Africa. Go figure.

McConaughey is no Harrison Ford — he's a pretty but limp hero — and the movie is too long, but as imitations go, it isn't all bad. With Steve Zahn providing his usual comic relief. — M. Pols. (PG-13: action violence.) 2 hours, 7 minutes. C+

"SCHIZO": The film's setting is a newly independent but still impoverished Kazakhstan of the early 1990s. Mustafa is not quite 15 but already saddled with the unfortunate Schizo nickname. As bleak as life seems in this dead-end world that both modernity and the USSR have failed, there are opportunities for human connection. A chance encounter leads Schizo to Zina, a 28-year-old single mother. A hard-bitten former waitress undeterred by a serious limp, she's like no one the boy has even imagined. — K. Turan. (Not rated; in Russian with subtitles.) 1 hour, 26 minutes. B+

"SIDEWAYS": Paul Giamatti and Thomas Haden Church are two very different middle-aged men on a road trip through the Santa Barbara wine country in this just-about-perfect movie from director Alexander Payne ("Election," "About Schmidt"). Wickedly funny, but poignant, too. — M. Pols. (R: language, some strong

sexual content, nudity.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. A

"SIN CITY": Shot in black-and-white, this movie springs off the screen just as the noir comic books by Frank Miller it is adapted from. So visually exciting that you can't turn away, even when all that's happening on-screen is the relentless reduction of skull and brain matter into pulp. So cool it could almost give you frostbite. Star-studded, but also deliberately offensive, pointless and emotionally hollow; it's about nothing at all, serving only as a celebration of violence. — M. Pols. (R: extreme violence, language, sexuality.) 2 hours, 6 minutes. B-

"THE UPSIDE OF ANGER": A meandering tale of a middle-aged woman (Joan Allen) deserted by her longtime husband, leaving her with four daughters, a bottomless bottle of gin and a major case of rage. Written by Mike Binder as a valentine to the always magnificent Allen, but he seems to have a better grip on his male characters than his women. The real love letter is to Kevin Costner, who plays her rumpled new love interest and does his best work in years. — M. Pols. (R: language, sexual situations, brief

comic violence, some drug use.) 1 hour, 58 minutes. B-

"A WAKE IN PROVIDENCE": Italian-American Anthony (Vincent Pagano), surprises his family by bringing an African-American girlfriend (Victoria Rowell) to his grandfather's wake in this pretty decent comedy of manners that tackles race relations. Relatives of the young man are shocked by his girlfriend, Alissa, and they say so. — C. Meyer. (R: language, some sexual content.) 1 hour, 28 minutes. C+

"WINTER SOLSTICE": This minimalist domestic drama follows a motherless suburban New Jersey family one summer. Dad Jim (Anthony LaPaglia) runs a landscaping business. Oldest son Gabe, who works at a supermarket, announces one evening that he's moving to Tampa, Fla. Younger son Pete gets into pointless fights in the convenience store parking lot. Jim doesn't like either of his sons' life trajectories, but they're all he's got until a woman his age, Molly (Allison Janney), moves in down the block. — B. Strauss. (R: language, mild violence.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. C

EVENTS

ETAGE

ACTORS ENSEMBLE OF BERKELEY — CLOSING — "Working," April 8 through May 7. A musical based on Studs Terkel's amusing and touching interviews with the working people of America. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; May 5, 8 p.m. \$15.

Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-5999 or www.aesof-berkeley.org.

ASHBY STAGE — "A Knight's Escape," April 23 through May 14. Eastenders Repertory Company presents the world premiere of Charles E. Polly's drama exploring insecurity in the post-September 11th world. April 30, May 5, May 7, May 12 and May 14, 8 p.m. \$15 to \$22. 510-568-4118 or www.ticketweb.com or www.eastenders.org.

"WJLD?" April 24 through May 15. Eastenders Repertory Company presents the world premiere of Scott Munson's irreverent comedy about the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, whose economic vision for America becomes unsettled when he receives an unexpected visit from "Jesus of Norway." May 1, May 8 and May 15, 3 p.m.; April 29, May 6 and May 13, 8 p.m. \$15 to \$22. 510-568-4118 or www.ticketweb.com or www.eastenders.org.

1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley.

AURORA THEATRE COMPANY — "Blue/Orange" by Joe Penhall, April 14 through May 15. This story about class, race and madness is set in a London psychiatric hospital and follows a young man who claims to be the son of African dictator Idi Amin, and the two rival psychiatrists who fight over his diagnosis and treatment. Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. \$36 to \$45.

Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822 or www.aurora-theatre.com.

BERKELEY CITY CLUB — CLOSING — "Ariel" by Marina Carr, April 2 through May 1. The U.S. premiere of Carr's contemporary tale of passion, power and destruction, bringing the Greek myth of Iphigenia to modern-day Ireland. Presented by Wilde Irish Productions. Thursday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. \$18 to \$22 general; \$15 to \$19 students and seniors; \$10 students on Thursdays. 510-644-9940 or www.wildeirish.org.

2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley.

BERKELEY REPERTORY THEATRE — "The People's Temple," April 20 through May 29. The world premiere of an atypical exploration of the Jonestown and tragic fall of the Reverend Jim Jones at the Roda Theatre. Tuesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Thursday and Saturday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. ON APRIL 30, MAY 5, MAY 14 and MAY 19; NO PERFORMANCE MAY 12. \$10 to \$55.

"Target Family Series" Workshops, 8 p.m. to 3 p.m. A series of workshops for parents, grandparents and children of all ages that explore new topic each month, such as anger, circus skills or storytelling. 510-647-2872.

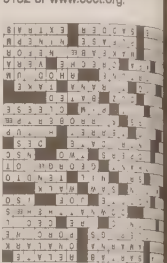
2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-2949, (888) 48R-TIX or www.leyrep.org.

BERKELEY/RICHMOND JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER — "The Arts Playbook Theatre Ensemble," 30, 8 p.m. A night of improvisational theatre based on audience suggestions. Reservations recommended. \$18. 510-655-5186 X25.

1414 Walnut St., Berkeley. 510-3327 or www.brjcc.org.

CONTRA COSTA CIVIC THEATRE — "Jekyll and Hyde: The Musical," April 20 through May 21. A musical version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic, brilliant doctor whose experiments on the human personality create a mad alter-ego. Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; May 1, May 8 and May 15, 2 p.m. general; \$12 youth ages 16 and under.

951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. 510-9132 or www.cccot.org.



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The Dining Guide

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W.....Wheelchair access

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Good food, friendly service, and comfortable atmosphere describe Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant. For over 30 years the restaurant has been located adjacent to the Park Street Bridge overlooking the Alameda/Oakland estuary. The "Pier" offers an extensive menu featuring fresh seafood, Angus New York steak, prime rib, pasta, teriyaki ribs, daily specials, and much more. The theme in the kitchen is "good homestyle cooking." Brunch is served on weekends from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and the popular earlybird menu is featured daily. Every table has a view of the water and there is plenty of free parking. The Pier is open 7 days a week. New business hours: Sun. - Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. - Sat. 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. - Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner.

Sushi House
2375 Shoreline Drive, Alameda (510) 565-0999
When it comes to sushi, one place on the island comes to mind. Come experience why locals & out-of-towners alike flock to Sushi House. Whether you're a fan of modern or traditional Japanese cuisine, Sushi House will delight your senses with unique, award-winning sushi creations not found elsewhere on either side of the Bay. You've tried the rest. Now try the best! All seafood is delivered daily to ensure unrivaled quality & freshness. Showcasing these excellent beginnings are chef-owner James' own creations such as "Crazy Horse" - tuna, hamachi, salmon & avocado; "Crazy Monkey" - yellow tail, salmon, eel, tobiko and cucumber; & "Dynamite" - yellow tail, salmon, tuna & halibut deep fried without special sauce - spicy! Frequent Sushi House diners John & Sate Crittenden agreed that "James is a real artist & his sushi is the freshest we've ever tasted." Sushi House is open nonstop from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday & 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays. Plenty of free parking. From an intimate date to a big celebration, Sushi House is the hip & trendy place to be in Alameda! AE MC VS \$S W

Speisekammer
2424 Lincoln Ave. Alameda (510) 522-1300
Speisekammer presents Modern German Cuisine that is good for the body and soul. Sauerbraten, Wiener Schnitzel and a house recipe Bratwurst are standbys. Light fare such as the Gemuesesudeln (Vegetable Strudel) with Goat Cheese, Roasted Red Pepper and Sprouts. Served in a Carnal Sauce) give the menu a modern (or California) twist. There is a word in the German language that has no counterpart in English: Gemutlichkeit. It connotes a combination of comfort, friendship, and the general sentiment of being completely at ease with your surroundings. Speisekammer's atmosphere is Gemutlich. Large tables and a private room make it a great place for groups. The Beer is Strictly German. The Cocktails are Distinctly American, and the wine list has some of each. Lunch is served Tues-Fri - Grilled Panini Sandwiches and Salads are offered along with some of the more popular entrée items. Sunday Brunch is to die for 10am-2pm. Dinner is served Tues-Sun. W, \$S-\$SS, AC, FB, RR

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[illegible]

Don't panic: 'Hitchhiker's' gets a thumbs up

By Mary F. Pols
STAFF WRITER

It's no guess that millions of us are eagerly looking for the release of "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." Since Douglas Adams' 1979 novel, the core story has evolved from a radio series of novels, a TV show and now, it's a movie. If you go by the book, Adams said to his fans — it's his — it's gathered a cult following.

REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"
■ **STARRING:** Martin Freeman, Mos Def, Zooey Deschanel, Sam Rockwell, John Malkovich, Alan Rickman
■ **RATING:** PG (for thematic elements, action and mild language)
■ **RUNNING TIME:** 1 hour, 50 minutes
■ **WHERE:** Opens today at area theaters
■ **GRADE:** B+

After all these years of movies in which the future of the Earth is in peril, how refreshing to see the planet disappear in the first five minutes: It's positively liberating. Nothing to go back to, no point in fretting over the family dog or one's earthly possessions. Arthur has only the clothes on his back (grungy bathrobe, jammies, slippers) and a towel, which Ford informs him is the most important piece of space equipment he'll need. That and a copy of the actual "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," a sort of Lonely Planet guide for space travelers that Ford does research for.

For a man without a house or a planet, Arthur adapts fairly well. He does miss a good cup of tea, though, and he's still mooning over a girl, Tricia (Zooey Deschanel). Shortly before the end of the world they hit it off, but, like foolish women everywhere, Tricia was distracted by a more flashy fellow. The bad news is that she left Arthur in the dust. The good news is the guy she went off with, Zaphod Beeblebrox (Sam Rockwell), is also an alien — president of the galaxy, no less. Zaphod is vain, moronic and appears to have the libido of Bill Clinton, but on the upside, he whisked Tricia off Earth pre-demo.

The movie follows Arthur, Ford, Zaphod and Tricia (now known as Trillian) on a series of adventures and quests, each more absurd than the last. They encounter a computer that speaks with the dulcet tones of Helen Mirren, a desperately depressed robot, Marvin (voiced with exquisite gloom by Alan Rickman), a pair of cheeky talking mice and a planet architect (Bill Nighy) whose specialty is fjords ("I won



MOS DEF as Ford Prefect, Martin Freeman as Arthur Dent and Sam Rockwell as Zaphod Beeblebrox star in "Hitchhiker's Guide."

an award for Norway"). There's more than a hint of Monty Python in "Hitchhiker's." The slapstick is of the sort that can get a kid belly-lauging, but there are also "big" philosophical questions being asked, along the lines of why are we here and what is the meaning of life? Before "Hitchhiker's," Adams had worked with Python member Graham Chapman as a comedy writer, and after "Hitchhiker's,"

he collaborated with John Cleese. Adams died of a heart attack in 2001, when he was only 49. He'd already written a couple of drafts of scripts for this movie adaptation, but the job wasn't complete. Screenwriter Karey Kirkpatrick ("Chicken Run") was brought in to polish the screenplay. Adams created one entirely new character for the movie, a cult leader named Humma Kavula (John Malkovich).

Malkovich is very funny, but it's worth noting — gee, what a surprise — that he injects the one dark note, that creepy moment that could give a kid nightmares. Otherwise, "Hitchhiker's Guide" is a no-brainer for the whole family, a good-natured space romp.

Mary F. Pols can be reached at mpols@cctimes.com or 925-945-4741.



BERKELEY ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION



THE BEAUX ARTS staircase at Orchard Lane.

single opposition at the state notification process. That's why the commissioners were so blown away ... we were all together."

While she talks, a pair of small birds twitters outside near an old redwood tree. Out the window, is the vista of the Bay, unmarred by the tangle of power lines.

"I would love for people to understand why we're so protective; it's not just for us," Drotos says.

"This is part of our California story; it's part of our Berkeley story," adds Thomas. "What kind of place is this going to be in the long term? Is Berkeley going to be a place that people will want

to live in? We want to open up that dialogue."

"There is a unique way of life here," says Drotos. Both women feel they are stewards of the land. "It's a reminder of where we have been and where we are now as a society," she says.

Standing on Panoramic Hill, you can imagine a Berkeley before BART, the quiet landscape that must have prevailed before the onset of cars. Some of the homes have stayed in the same family for more than a generation. "There is a unique way of life here," says Drotos. Both women feel they are stewards of the land. "It's a reminder of

where we have been and where we are now as a society," says Thomas.

Neighbors walk past each others' houses each day, passing gardens and strollers. There are no fences, so people actually make eye contact. "There's a sense here that people here know each other — for better or for worse — and take care of each other, like a family," says Drotos. "Everyone deserves that. This shouldn't be an anomaly. It should be a model."

Suzanne LaFetra is a Berkeley writer. Reach her at suzlafe@berkeleyherald.com.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BEST SELLERS

Compiled from sales at 45 independent bookstores in Northern California.

Fiction

1. "The Mermade Chair," by Sue Monk Kidd (Viking, \$24.95.)
2. "Saturday," by Ian McEwan. (Nan A. Talese, \$26.)
3. "Gilead," by Marilynne Robinson. (FSG, \$23.)
4. "Ya-Yas In Bloom," by Rebecca Wells. (HarperCollins, \$24.95.)
5. "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close," by Jonathan Safran Foer. (Houghton Mifflin, \$24.95.)
6. "With No One As Witness," Elizabeth George. (HarperCollins, \$26.95.)
7. "The Da Vinci Code," by Dan Brown. (Doubleday, \$24.95.)
8. "Never Let Me Go," by Kazuo Ishiguro. (Knopf, \$24.)
9. "The Stroke of Midnight," by Laurell Hamilton. (Ballantine, \$23.95.)
10. "Prep," by Curtis Sittenfeld. (Random House, \$21.95.)

Nonfiction

1. "The World Is Flat," by Thomas L. Friedman. (FSG, \$27.50.)
2. "My Life So Far," by Jane Fonda. (Random House, \$26.95.)
3. "Blink," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Little, Brown, \$25.95.)
4. "Plan B," by Anne Lamott. (Riverhead, \$24.95.)
5. "Freakonomics," by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. (William Morrow, \$25.95.)
6. "On Bull," by Harry G. Frankfurt. (Princeton, \$9.95.)
7. "And One More Thing Before You Go," by Maria Shriver. (Free Press, \$13.95.)
8. "Winning," by Jack Welch, with Suzy Welch. (HarperBusiness, \$27.95.)
9. "French Women Don't Get Fat," by Mireille Guiliano. (Knopf, \$22.)
10. "Collapse," by Jared Diamond. (Viking, \$29.95.)

Trade paperback fiction

1. "The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini. (Riverhead, \$14.)
2. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time," by Mark Haddon. (Vintage, \$12.)
3. "Shadow of the Wind," by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. (Penguin, \$15.)

4. "The Time Traveler's Wife," by Audrey Niffenegger. (Harvest, \$14.)
5. "Good Girl," by Lolly Winston. (Warner, \$12.95.)
6. "The Birth of Venus," by Sarah Dunant. (Random House, \$13.95.)
7. "The Secret Life of Bees," by Sue Monk Kidd. (Penguin, \$14.)
8. "The Confessions of Max Tivoli," by Andrew Sean Greer. (Picador, \$14.)
9. "Middlesex," by Jeffrey Eugenides. (Picador, \$15.)
10. "The Known World," by Edward P. Jones. (Amistad, \$13.95.)

Trade paperback nonfiction

1. "The Tipping Point," by Malcolm Gladwell. (Back Bay, \$14.95.)
2. "The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill," by Mark Bittner. (Three Rivers, \$12.95.)
3. "Don't Think of an Elephant," by George Lakoff. (Chelsea Green, \$10.)
4. "Truth & Beauty," by Ann Patchett. (Perennial, \$13.95.)
5. "Bad Cat," by Jim Edgar. (Workman, \$9.95.)
6. "The Devil in the White City," by Erik Larson. (Vintage, \$14.95.)
7. "Reading Lolita in Tehran," by Azar Nafisi. (Random House, \$13.95.)
8. "Zagat San Francisco Bay Area Restaurants," (Zagat Survey, \$12.95.)
9. "Skeletons on the Zahara," by Dean King. (Back Bay, \$14.95.)
10. "The Hidden Messages in Water," by Masaru Emoto. (Beyond Words, \$16.95.)

Mass market paperback

1. "R is for Ricochet," by Sue Grafton. (Berkeley, \$7.99.)
2. "Angels & Demons," by Dan Brown. (Pocket, \$7.99.)
3. "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy," by Douglas Adams. (Ballantine, \$7.99.)
4. "Little Scarlet," by Walter Mosley. (Warner Vision, \$7.50.)
5. "The Game," by Laurie King. (Bantam, \$6.99.)

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Friday, April 29, 2005

Section D

Cadillac CTS loaded with safety features and a navigational system

BY TOM KEANE
MOTOR MATTERS

2005 Cadillac CTS will definitely appeal to men. This luxury sedan has a great navigational system, men will want to stop to ask for directions. It might be an exaggeration, but I think the navigational system on the CTS is great and user-friendly. By simply touching a destination, a detailed map appears on an LCD screen with a moving arrow pointing the direction. But what makes the navigational system different is Cadillac's XM NavTraffic, the nation's first real-time satellite information that continuously provides traffic information in select cities. The convenience helped me avoid a time-consuming delay when traffic backed up on an interstate due to an accident. I made an early exit, but didn't get to my destination. That the navigational system provided precise directions and I didn't have to stop and



THE 2005 CADILLAC CTS sedan has such a great navigational system, men will never have to stop to ask for directions.

KEANE ON WHEELS

Another notable feature of my tester was the gearbox. Although the 2.8-liter V6 engine produces only 200 horsepower, I was able to push this midsize car to better performance by downshifting. For those who prefer an automatic transmission, a five-speed Hydra-Matic is available. A 3.6-liter V6 engine is another option that many of my automotive journalist cohorts praise.

Power features include power seats, mirrors, and windows. It even has auto-dimming inside mirror, cruise control, and high intensity halogen headlamps. The pass-through trunk allows hauling of extra long cargo. And the trunk is quite spacious.

The exterior caught the eye of one passenger who recognized Cadillac's chiseled-edge sharp lines, plus the vertical

CADILLAC CTS

Vehicle Type	Five-passenger, four-door rear-wheel drive midsize sports sedan
Suggested Retail	\$30,190
Price as Tested	\$38,180
Engine Type	V6 DOHC 24-valve VVT w/SFI
Horsepower	210 @ 6,500 rpm
Torque	195 @ 3,200 rpm
Transmission	Six-speed manual w/OD
Wheelbase	113 inches
Height	57 inches
Curb Weight	3,568 pounds
Fuel Capacity	17 gallons
Mileage	City/highway 17/27

headlamps and tail lamps. It sits on attractive 17-inch aluminum painted wheels. The interior is another eye-catcher with its \$1,300 option of full leather seats.

Regardless of the choice of engine or transmission, the CTS includes numerous safety features, including front and side

airbags, rear window defogger, twilight sentinel auto lamps, automatic door locks, and StabiliTrak.

StabiliTrak stabilizes the vehicle when the driver makes a sudden swerve trying to avoid an accident. It keeps the car from fishtailing and spinning out of control.

Should an accident occur, however, the CTS has OnStar, a system that can summon rescue in numerous ways.

One last thought: My statement that the CTS would appeal to men still stands. But all things considered, I'm sure women will appreciate all the features on the CTS, too.

INSIDE

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1965 Dodge Coronet is a fun car to drive

BY VERN PARKER
MOTOR MATTERS

In 1965, newlywed Robert Wright was a mechanic working at a Dodge dealership. He and his bride, Shirley, had been discussing a new car, but the talking stage was as far as they had progressed.

At work, Wright saw a picture of the new 1966 Dodge and decided he liked the old 1965 model better. With that decision made, the couple settled on a 1965 Dodge Coronet 440 two-door hardtop, ruby red with a white stripe within the chrome trim on the rear fenders. He insisted on the 426-cubic-inch wedge V-8 engine that produced a whopping 365 horsepower, while his wife, who was going to be the principal driver, was just as adamant that the transmission be an automatic.

A more expensive model had the bucket seats that Wright wanted, but he didn't like some of the other trim that came with the package, so he decided to be happy with the bench seat in his Dodge.

The 17-foot-long Dodge, which weighed 3,180 pounds, came dressed with a white headliner. Everything else in the cabin was a maroon color regardless of the type of material — vinyl, fabric or carpet. The horn ring added sparkle to the interior.

A set of 8.25x14-inch Goodyear Power Cushion tires mounted on a 117-inch wheelbase support the powerful Dodge. Optional equipment on the car includes: AM ra-

CLASSIC CLASSICS

dio, undercoating, full wheel covers, tinted windshield, windshield washers, suregrip differential, retractable seat belts, reverberator speaker, variable speed wipers, automatic transmission, 426-cubic-inch V8 engine, and 8.25x14-inch white sidewall tires. All of these accessories boosted the total price paid to \$2,919.14.

With the various packages that the Wrights ordered, the car was delivered equipped with 11-inch brakes, along with a heavy-duty sway bar, an extra large radiator and a performance-enhancing heavier torsion bar suspension.

The Wrights discovered a bonus in owning the Dodge: that it was a spacious 75.6-inches wide and 55.8-inches high. Long before child restraint laws, Wright reported that with the rear seat cushion removed, a port-a-crib could be set up behind the front seat, which provided a place to play for their infant son, Doug, while traveling. There was no thought in those days of child restraints or safety baby seats.

The sporty Dodge served the family well, doing all the typical family errands, and it in turn, received excellent care. Only once was it abused. Wright recalls that in 1971, while he was stopped at a traffic light near his home, the car was rear-ended. Fortunately,



WHEN THE RUBY RED DODGE with dual exhausts was delivered to the dealership in late December 1965, Wright took one look and happily thought, "That's the car for me."

the damage was minor and readily repaired.

Wright says it takes five quarts of oil and 20 quarts of coolant to keep the big V8 engine running happily, cool and well lubricated. He says the single four-barrel carburetor drawing fuel from the 19-gallon gasoline tank can deliver up to 19 or 20 miles per gallon on

the highway — "If you're careful."

When the ruby red Dodge with dual exhausts was delivered to the dealership in late December 1965, Wright took one satisfied look and happily thought, "That's the car for me." He hasn't changed his opinion of the car in the intervening four decades.

Now, almost 40 years later, with

the odometer on the pampered muscle car approaching 55,500 miles, he says, "Everything is original, except for the battery and tires."

He never thought that he would have his Dodge Coronet this long, but acknowledges he is happy now that he didn't order a padded dashboard or power windows, typical high-maintenance items on

antique cars that were used. Spoken as a car owner, Wright says, "It's much fun to drive. It's you to have more fun."

For your car to be subject of the Classic column, send a photo (view) plus brief details number to Vern Parker

Road salt causes rusting, leaking brake lines

BY JUNIOR DAMATO
MOTOR MATTERS

Dear Doctor: I've been buying Toyotas since 1965 and BMWs since 1968. I usually keep these vehicles to 300,000 miles. The only brake line I have ever replaced is the rubber flexible brake line to the calipers. However, the steel brake lines on my 1989 Dodge Dakota had to be replaced in 1996 and again in 2004. I have two other American trucks, one is a 1996 Ford, the other a 1998 Chevrolet dump truck with only 20,000 miles. Both had rotted and leaking brake lines. What is the story with American vehicles and rusty lines? The bleeder screws also rust into place and sometimes break when trying to loosen them. — Joseph

Dear Joseph: You're not the

AUTO DOCTOR

only person having a problem with rusted and leaking brake lines. I see this often, as well as gas lines that rust and leak. This problem seems to happen only in the snow belt areas where salt is used. The problem is cheap and untreated metal. The only affordable fix is to make sure to spray the undercarriage of the vehicles after driving in the inclement weather. Another factor that accelerates the rust process is putting the vehicle in the garage with the salt and slush still clinging to the underbody. The extra humidity causes the salt to eat away much faster.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1994

Dodge B-1500 Ram Van 318 V-8 engine and automatic transmission with 127,000 miles. It has developed a vibration that I can feel in the seat, but not the steering wheel. I also hear a muffled rumble. It's felt at 30 mph under hard acceleration and at 55 to 60 mph. The dealer rebuilt the rear end and replaced the transmission mount. Both the engine and transmission seem to work fine. The dealer acknowledges the problem and said, "Just live with it." — Clyde

Dear Clyde: The key words in your complaint are "under hard acceleration." This would suggest looking at the engine mount and all the accessories that are driven by the fan belt. Have the technician take the car out on a road-test. Can the vibration be felt on a brake load test in drive? Or try another shop. If

the vibration/rumble was not there for the first 127,000 miles, then it should not be difficult to find and repair.

Dear Doctor: I recently purchased a 2000 Dodge Stratus SE. I noticed when stopped at a traffic light, I can feel a vibration. I went back to the dealer and was told this is a normal feeling. Is this true or should I get another opinion? — Dorothy

Dear Dorothy: Anytime you have a concern on a possible problem always get a second opinion. Some vehicles will have a slight vibration while in gear at a stop. The vibration can also change with the a/c compressor cycling on and off.

Dear Doctor: I own a 1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee with a 5.2-liter V-8 engine. I'm going to do a full tune-

up, including changing the coil. Would it be worth replacing the coil and ignition parts with high performance aftermarket products, such as Accel or MSD? What about using a high performance air filter? — Ben

Dear Ben: The use of high performance ignition parts is not a problem. As for the high performance air filter, it's OK, as long as it is cleaned and oiled on a regular basis.

Dear Doctor: I have been buying Chevrolet trucks for the past 40 years. I engine on my 1998 K1500 has developed a ping sound while driving and the engine is warm. There is also a clatter sound when started and idling. Is this a problem? Would heavier oil help? — John

Dear John: Some GM engines, especially the 3.1-liter and 3.4-liter V6 engines and 4.8-liter, 5.3-liter and 6.0-liter V8 engines, have a clatter from the pistons moving in the lower section of the cylinders. The cylinder bore is a bit too large or the pis-

ton is too small. As the temperature warms up, sound will sometimes not be seen any longer. As for the ping sound, it's a common problem on passageways, or the ping at all. The EGR burnt gases to re-vent and cool down the chamber.

Dear Doctor: Every shop reads your column all A.S.E. certified. As you mentioned a computer that helps to the problem on vehicles have problem vehicles, some assistance in the solution in a timely fashion get their phone number unable to find it. Contact us with the phone number.

Dear Bill: The number is 800-997-1674. Send questions to 3 Copart Circle, Lakeville

Land Rover adds an all-new 2005 LR3 to lineup

BY DAN LYONS
MOTOR MATTERS

Off-road or off Broadway, it's all the same to Land Rover. The British built line of upscale SUVs has a tradition of versatility. Recently, Land Rover rolled out a new model with the same commitment to dual-duty driving. The new LR3 slots between the top-shelf Range Rover and the entry luxury Freelander. Offered in SE and HSE trim levels, LR3 prices start at \$44,995.

Hard core off-road capability has always been a part of the package with Land Rover. LR3 fills the bill, and the numbers tell the story: angles of approach/breakover/departure are as much as 37/27.9/29.6 degrees respectively, with minimum ground clearance of 9.5 inches. You can scale a pitch as steep as 45 degrees and wade through water as deep as 27.6 inches.

This is more off-road mastery than all but a very few will ever ask for. It's a challenge to make an SUV that can toe the mark like this. Equally daunting is making all that capability real-world simple. Land Rover's solution is an innovative control system called Terrain Response. From a center console knob, drivers select one of five positions that correspond with road conditions. One setting takes care of everyday driving and another is your choice for slippery areas: snow, gravel, grass.

In addition, there are three off-road modes, suitable for mud, sand or rock crawling. Twist the knob, and the LR3 automatically dials in the optimum settings for all of the on-board electronics and traction controls. Ride height, engine response,

GET OFF THE ROAD

transmission settings, traction control, even hill descent control, all one and done. It's off-road made easy.

Equally important is the LR3's in-town, tooling around feel. Since most SUVs spend far more time on pavement than off (a ratio that rises in proportion to the purchase price). To be successful, LR3 has to coddle its customers. The first tool that Land Rover applies to the task is size. LR3 is big, and the dimensions pay dividends in terms of interior room. Up front, LR3 has a handsome, well appointed front cabin that would serve well in any luxury sedan. Storage spots abound, visibility is good and comfort levels are high.

The second row fares no worse than the first. The raised, "stadium seating" makes for an unobstructed view forward, and a fixed, Alpine window overhead lends an open feel.

The upside of the optional, third-row seating is true, adult-sized room. The downside is that there's little space in back for storage (cargo capacity measures just 9.9 cubic feet).

However, when you're not in maximum passenger mode, the third-row seat folds flush with the load floor and the tailgate. So set, the capacity is boosted to a very healthy 42.1-44.5 cubic feet, expandable to as much as 90.3 cubic feet with the second-row seats folded.

The LR3 can tow up 7,716 pounds. Access to the cargo area is by means of a two-piece tailgate.



THE NEW LR3 slots between the top-shelf Range Rover and the entry luxury Freelander; prices start at \$44,995.

The curved cut of the glass increases rear visibility, but a one-piece design would be more convenient, especially when you've got your arms full.

Lift the bonnet on the LR3 and you'll find a Jaguar-based V8 engine. This engine has been adapted to meet Land Rover's requirements with more low-end torque (315 pounds-foot at 4,000 rpm) and greater resistance to

dust and moisture. The oil and water pumps have been re-engineered to maintain function, even at extreme angles of operation.

The engine is coupled to a six-speed automatic transmission, and two-speed transfer case, with lockable center differential. It's a fine, fast combination. There's plenty of low-end power on hand for the dirty work off-road.

On road, the LR3 does 0-to-60

mph in about 8 seconds flat — that's hustling, for a 5,400-pound truck. Gas mileage is estimated at a wallet-sapping 14 mpg city and 18 highway. The LR3's road ride is exemplary; a comfortable touring machine to be sure. Handling caveats are as with all large SUVs: the driver must make allowances for the higher center of gravity and longer stopping distances required by its size.

All of the above is a design that's undeniably modern, but arguably unimpressive for its clientele. Where you stand on that, though, there's no denying its impressive versatility. It bridges the divide between off-road and home theater.

SPARE PARTS

MOTOR MATTERS

Saab from Subaru: The 2005 Saab 9-2X is a premium sport compact four-door sedan equipped with all-wheel drive. With styling recognizable as Saab heritage, it is built in Japan by Subaru, a manufacturer with expert knowledge of all-wheel drive vehicles. The 9-2X Linear has a responsive 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine and the high-performance 9-2X Aero is equipped with a 227-horsepower turbocharged and intercooled

engine. The 9-2X starts at \$23,000.

Deadly facts: Large cars and minivans dominate among models with very low death rates, according to research by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The models with the highest death rates are very small cars and midsize SUVs, many of which also have high rates of death in single vehicle rollover crashes. The model with the highest death rate of all is the two-door, two-wheel drive Chevrolet Blazer, which also had the

highest rollover death rate.

Tire pressure: Within the next three years, all new vehicles will be required to warn consumers when a tire is underinflated. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates the new systems will save 120 lives and prevent 8,400 injuries a year. When a tire becomes underinflated, a yellow warning light will appear in the vehicle's instrument cluster, behind the steering wheel. Source: Detroit News.



THE 2005 SAAB 9-2X is a premium sport compact four-door sedan equipped with all-wheel drive.

China to become major player in world auto market

MICHELLE KREBS
MATTERS

Chinese automaker Chery, which plans to sell cars in the United States, is set to debut a snazzy sports car — the Chery A6 — at the Shanghai auto show. Chery is nearly every week announcing another opening, another new car. This week's show, the Shanghai International Automobile Salon, specifically Shang-

hai, is a major auto show alternating between Beijing and Shanghai. Increasingly, the Shanghai show is gaining importance to the point that industry experts expect it to be on par with the Detroit auto shows in Detroit, Geneva, Tokyo and Paris. This year, the Shanghai show has a backdrop of lower prices and a continuing price war and Chinese leadership in China. The Chinese government has purposely instituted measures to boost the economy, which has slowed car sales. In the past months, automakers have slashed prices of their vehicles — their incentives in China — to boost sales and reduce bloating in the market.

Despite the recent downturn, China remains on track to be one of the world's largest auto markets in the future. The only question is when because of the importance of the Chinese automotive market to the world's auto shows.

This year's Shanghai show will feature a full slate of international exhibitors, including all major automakers and suppliers as well as the top brass of those companies. Exhibits will be held at the Shanghai New International Expo Center, which has been expanded by 50 percent for the 2003 Shanghai show.

An unusual move, Audi will be showing the A6 that will be sold in China, where chauffeur-driven cars are commonplace. The A6 is a long-wheelbase sedan that is so popular in China, which is the biggest market in the world for the A6. General Motors are also showing details for their plans for China, though both intend to keep a low splash, as they did at the Beijing show.

Chery arrived late to China's automotive party but has

SHE'S FREEWHEELING

been doing well of late. At last year's Beijing show, Ford unveiled a Focus concept, the first worldwide debut of a concept for Ford or perhaps any major foreign automaker in China.

At the Shanghai show, Ford says the largest number of cars, trucks, and technical displays will be from the Ford brand. In addition, it will unveil four new concept vehicles in Shanghai. The automaker also will unveil four new cars never before seen in China.

Volvo will display seven vehicles and a concept car. Jaguar and Land Rover will display five vehicles each. Mazda will have a total of 14 vehicles on display, including the new MX-5 roadster.

General Motors won't confirm it, but industry sources speculate the automaker will hold the worldwide unveiling of the production version of the Chevrolet S3X, a sport-utility concept shown in Paris last fall. GM will only say that its newest global car will make its worldwide debut at the show. What is confirmed is that GM will use the Shanghai show to launch the Chevrolet brand in China much as it did the Cadillac brand in Beijing last year.

An exhibit surely to receive many visitors will be one hosted by one of China's most prominent automakers, Chery. In contrast to many of China's largest auto companies, Chery has no joint venture with a foreign auto company. Instead, it produces cars on its own.

Chery has been in the news a lot of late because of its plans to bring vehicles for sale to the United States through the flamboyant entrepreneur Malcolm Bricklin, who got Subaru started in the U.S. and sold Yugos here as well. Chery also has announced ambitious plans to sell cars in Europe. (Chery also has become infamous for an ugly court case in China in which GM charges the Chinese company with copying the design of its small car.)

Chery has employed the services of famous Italian designer Pininfarina to develop its next-generation of cars, the ones that could be sold in the U.S. Surely one of the most talked-about at the



CHINESE AUTOMAKER CHERY is introducing a snazzy sports car — its first — at the Shanghai auto show.

This year's Shanghai show will feature a full slate of international exhibitors, including all major automakers and suppliers as well as attendance by the top brass of those companies.

Shanghai show will be the company's first sports car, a Pininfarina-designed convertible with a retractable hardtop. Chery also has minivans, crossovers, sport utilities and more cars in the pipeline, some of which will be shown in Shanghai and others that will debut at the all-important auto show in Frankfurt, Germany.

The opening of the Shanghai show will be enlightening in terms of new, upcoming products and strategies by automakers. Like the Beijing show a year earlier, it will surely be history in the making.

To reach Michelle Krebs, send e-mail to michkrebs@aol.com.

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2163 109th Av - \$375,000
555 10th St 323 - \$390,000
2527 24th Av - \$500,000
1184 30th St - \$100,000
1704 38th Av - \$585,000
2619 38th Av - \$625,000
431 44th St - \$631,500
736 47th St - \$821,500
2011 48th Av - \$660,000
1093 54th St - \$145,000
3108 61st Av - \$575,000
2319 62nd Av - \$429,000
3221 62nd Av - \$510,000

3330 68th Av - \$325,000
1478 71st Av - \$440,000
1183 73rd Av - \$370,000
1919 73rd Av - \$475,000
2712 75th Av - \$290,000
1631 80th Av - \$363,000
2475 80th Av - \$289,000
1257 82nd Av - \$340,000
2517 82nd Av - \$505,000
1727 92nd Av - \$500,000
3900 Altamont - \$425,000
3281 Arizona St - \$660,000
1036 Arlington Av - \$470,000
8626 B St - \$255,000
2419 Bartlett St - \$409,000
565 Bellevue 1401 - \$400,000
565 Bellevue 904 - \$395,000
6222 Bullard Dr - \$1,261,000
8936 Burr St - \$635,000
10506 Byron Av - \$402,000
320 Caldecott 121 - \$565,000
200 Caldecott 214 - \$415,000
5933 Camden St - \$565,000
645 Chetwood 101 - \$485,000
330 Clifton St - \$750,000
5062 Cochran - \$1,222,000
6111 Colby St - \$742,000
9720 Coral Rd - \$315,000
9435 D St - \$400,000
3706 Delmont Av - \$130,000
3716 Delmont Av - \$120,000
2318 East 15th St - \$530,000
2939 East 16th St - \$469,000
2420 East 21st St - \$440,000
9431 East St - \$610,000
547 El Paseo Dr - \$391,500
6865 Elverton Dr - \$1,580,000
801 Erie St - \$1,325,000
6605 Evergreen Av - \$765,000
5708 Florence Tr - \$885,000
10344 Foothill Bl - \$420,000
989 Franklin St 308 - \$480,000
988 Franklin St 510 - \$360,000
989 Franklin St 622 - \$360,000
127 Frisbie St - \$600,000
3752 Fruitvale Av - \$582,000
2927 Galindo St - \$510,000
2833 Georgia St - \$560,000
109 Ghormley - \$385,000
3414 Hannah St - \$560,000
2671 Havenscourt - \$520,000
2159 High St - \$445,000
8015 Idlewood St - \$330,000
3542 Laguna Av - \$562,000
1 Lakeside 1508 - \$420,000
1 Lakeside 1707 - \$497,500
1 Lakeside r 316 - \$350,500
1 Lakeside 913 - \$450,000
1 Lakeside 917 - \$420,000
8957 Lawlor St - \$420,000
3768 Leighton St - \$800,000
6390 Longcroft Dr - \$200,000
3724 Lyon Av - \$450,000
2917 MacArthur 1B - \$274,000
2917 MacArthur 2E - \$355,000
4529 Market St - \$500,000
831 Milton St - \$345,000
5920 Morse Dr - \$447,000
8729 Mountain 23 - \$355,000
311 Oak St 526 - \$632,000
311 Oak St 814 - \$460,000
1929 Oakview Dr - \$815,000
6167 Ocean View - \$1,215,000
7864 Outlook Av - \$560,000
2325 Park Bl - \$490,000
2935 Partridge Av - \$602,000
10799 Pippin St - \$385,000
9851 Plymouth St - \$500,000
10700 Prince Royal - \$610,000
6341 Ridgmont Dr - \$1,205,000
1803 Rosedale Av - \$595,000
4529 San Carlos Av - \$375,000
386 Santa Clara Av - \$552,000
2438 Savannah Ct - \$304,500
2483 Savannah Ct - \$304,500
2242 Seminary Av - \$380,000
4400 St Andrews - \$1,000,000
10712 Stella St - \$525,000
8501 Thermal St - \$750,000
6358 Thornhill - \$720,000
6338 Valley View Rd - \$730,000
360 Vernon St 307 - \$405,000
40 Westwood Ct - \$725,000
823 Wood St - \$540,000
3226 Wyman St - \$575,000
70 Yosemite 303 - \$437,000
522 Zorah St - \$515,000

PIEDMONT

1087 Ashmount - \$1,150,000
1049 Park Ln - \$1,030,000

RICHMOND

619 11th St - \$324,000
674 11th St - \$320,000
202 15th St - \$580,000
209 1st St - \$310,000
937 36th St - \$350,000
851 38th St - \$457,000
334 39th St - \$640,000
1725 3rd St - \$328,000
644 3rd St - \$303,000
1526 5th St - \$290,000
140 6th St - \$400,000
354 6th St - \$325,000
625 6th St - \$395,000
653 8th St - \$350,000
2926 Alta Mira - \$415,000
1131 Arrowhead - \$590,000
6038 Bernhard - \$475,000
1353 Carlson Bl - \$630,000
2916 Clinton Av - \$401,000
2009 Dunn Av - \$360,000
3127 Erla Wy - \$470,000
2622 Esmond - \$465,000
5119 Fallon Av - \$530,000
2989 Gilma Dr - \$445,000
33 Harbor View - \$730,000
3127 Henderson - \$445,000
3917 Leke Wy - \$340,000
361 Market Dr - \$300,000
2642 McBryde Av - \$345,000
812 Meadow View - \$748,000
6084 Monterey Av - \$540,000
1010 Ohio Av - \$350,000
4326 Ohio Av - \$475,000
1400 Pinnacle 217 - \$441,000
1400 Pinnacle 218 - \$654,500
1400 Pinnacle 406 - \$544,000
1400 Pinnacle 416 - \$679,000
300 Seaview Dr - \$840,000
306 Seaview Dr - \$852,000
308 Seaview Dr - \$862,500
312 Seaview Dr - \$846,000
3964 Selmi Grove - \$460,000
3614 Solano Av - \$490,000
141 South 18th St - \$367,000
158 South 35th St - \$380,000
333 South 39th St - \$456,000
5803 Tehama Av - \$600,000
2534 Treasider Wy - \$382,000
72 West Sanford Av - \$355,000
442 Wood Glen Dr - \$810,000

SAN LEANDRO

1556 152nd Av - \$420,000
1590 152nd Av - \$390,000
1472 159th Av - \$470,000
2160 166th Av - \$650,000
416 Begier Av - \$685,000
2442 Belvedere - \$420,000
1726 Benedict Dr - \$713,000
1160 Camellia Ct - \$650,000
1132 Carpenter St - \$340,000
872 Crespi Dr - \$555,000
2715 Darius Wy - \$916,000
14101 E. 14th 213 - \$230,000
14101 E. 14th 309 - \$325,000
486 Joaquin Av - \$630,000
502 Joaquin Av - \$415,000
14555 Kings Ct - \$385,000
15101 Lark St - \$470,000
1331 Margery Av - \$513,000
341 Melven Ct - \$475,000
14982 Norton St - \$485,000
16622 Rolando Av - \$550,000
1455 San Rafael St - \$525,000
14996 Swenson Ct - \$400,000
2077 Washington 314 - \$235,000
504 West Merle Ct - \$506,000
2322 Wimbledon Pl - \$525,000
16225 Windsor Dr - \$520,000

SAN LORENZO

825 Grant Av - \$550,000
15718 P. Largavista - \$600,000
14789 Van Av - \$613,000
15969 Via Cordoba - \$550,000
15881 Via Granada - \$485,000
17454 Via Julia - \$536,000
1127 Via Los Trancos - \$550,000
16097 Via Paro - \$585,000
2183 Via Rancho - \$460,000

By the numbers

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 17
LOWEST PRICE: \$273,000

HIGHEST PRICE: \$939,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$630,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$586,147

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST PRICE: \$327,500
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,215,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$550,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$621,500

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 17
LOWEST PRICE: \$450,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,750,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$920,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$914,941

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST PRICE: \$500,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$949,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$700,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$697,400

EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 10
LOWEST PRICE: \$400,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$720,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$575,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$580,500

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 6
LOWEST PRICE: \$325,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$894,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$365,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$405,917

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$600,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$739,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$669,500

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 110
LOWEST PRICE: \$100,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,580,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$485,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$528,414

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST PRICE: \$1,030,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,150,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$1,090,000

RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 50
LOWEST PRICE: \$290,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$862,500
MEDIAN PRICE: \$456,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$488,900

SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 27
LOWEST PRICE: \$273,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$939,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$630,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$630,000

SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 9
LOWEST PRICE: \$447,000
HIGHEST PRICE: \$600,000
MEDIAN PRICE: \$560,000
AVERAGE PRICE: \$560,000

This list is provided by Resource, a real estate company that obtains information from the County Recorder. Neither California Resource nor this newspaper guarantees the completeness or accuracy of the information. All questions should be directed to CalResource.

Check your oil
you gas up. You
will love your

CHECK
OIL
REGULARLY!!
TAKE
CARE
OF
YOUR
ENGINE
TAKE
CARE
OF
YOUR
TIRES
TAKE
CARE
OF
YOUR
BATTERY
TODAY

1.9% APR FINANCING
Short Term on 2005 Accords & Long Term on 2005 Elements
On Approved Credit through AHFC

GIGANTIC RED TAG SALE
HUGE SELECTION
OVER 350 VEHICLES TO
CHOOSE FROM

2005 CIVIC VP SEDAN
ALL IN STOCK
LEASE FOR ONLY... \$139 PER MONTH
OR PURCHASE FOR ONLY... \$13,918
36 month closed end lease, \$1995 at start of lease, \$0 security deposit required, plus tax, 15 cents per mile charge over 12,000 miles per year. On Approved Credit. Credit through AHFC.

2005 ACCORD LX SEDAN
ALL IN STOCK!
LEASE FOR ONLY... \$179 PER MONTH
OR PURCHASE FOR ONLY... \$19,170
36 month closed end lease, \$1995 at start of lease, \$0 security deposit required, plus tax, 15 cents per mile charge over 12,000 miles per year. On Approved Credit. Credit through AHFC.

2005 ACCORD EX-L V6 COUPE
ALL IN STOCK!
LEASE FOR ONLY... \$289 PER MONTH
OR PURCHASE FOR ONLY... \$24,764
36 month closed end lease, \$1995 at start of lease, \$0 security deposit required, plus tax, 15 cents per mile charge over 12,000 miles per year. On Approved Credit. Credit through AHFC.

2005 ACCORD EX-L V6 SEDAN
ALL IN STOCK!
LEASE FOR ONLY... \$289 PER MONTH
OR PURCHASE FOR ONLY... \$24,674
36 month closed end lease, \$1995 at start of lease, \$0 security deposit required, plus tax, 15 cents per mile charge over 12,000 miles per year. On Approved Credit. Credit through AHFC.

2005 ODYSSEY EX
3 AT THIS PRICE
#080727, #076238, #077496
LEASE FOR ONLY... \$309 PER MONTH
48 month closed end lease, \$1995 at start of lease, \$0 security deposit required, plus tax, 15 cents per mile charge over 12,000 miles per year. On Approved Credit. Credit through AHFC.

Walnut Creek Honda
1707 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA
866-587-5444
Expires 5-1-05* All prices plus government fees & taxes, any finance charges, document preparation charge, and any emission testing charge and dealer installed equipment.
Visit Our Website: www.WalnutCreekHonda.com

Don't be put on the spot in an auto accident

KNIGHT RIDDER/TRIBUNE INFORMATION SERVICES

No one likes becoming involved in a traffic accident. But how you act or what you say can aggravate an already difficult situation.

There are several things you should and should not do in the wake of a fender bender or a collision involving significant damage.

Do:

- Have your insurance company's claim service card available with your agent's name and phone number and your policy identification number.
- Notify police immediately. Once an officer arrives on the scene, ask for his or her name and badge number and the address and phone number of the police station. Also find out when the officer will file a report

about the accident and how to obtain a copy of it.

- Review the copy of your insurance company's filing procedures, and keep it in your glove compartment.
- Contact your insurance company agent as soon as possible.

- Note your insurance company's policy in relation to qualified repair shops and pre-inspections.
- Get and record all relevant information about the other driver, including name, address, work and home telephone numbers, vehicles license plate state and numbers, driver's license numbers, insurance carrier and agent's name, and if possible, policy number.
- Take down the names, addresses and telephone numbers of passengers and witnesses.
- Make notes describing the

accident, the vehicles involved, their approximate speeds, the setting, the weather, the traffic signs and signals and the road conditions. If a camera is handy, photograph the damage and scene, or even draw a diagram of accident.

Never:

- Declare or make a written statement regarding responsibility or blame.
- Let others involved in the accident know how much liability insurance you carry.
- Discuss the specifics of the accident with others involved.
- Accept offers to settle for payment on the spot. You may be held liable later for the same damages.

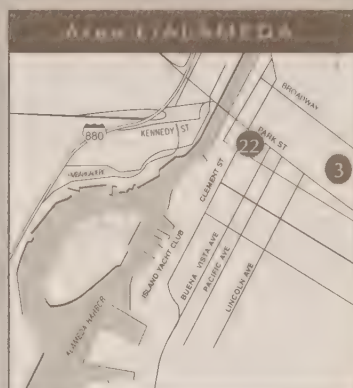
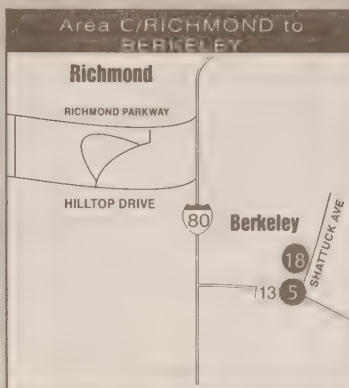
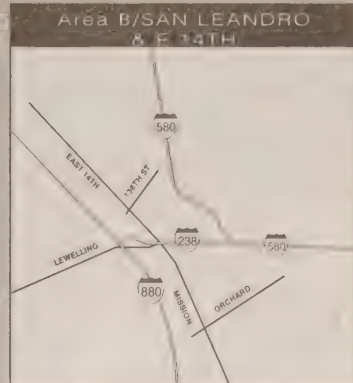
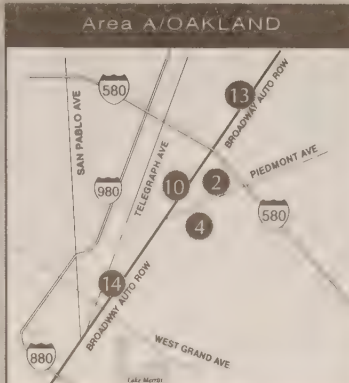
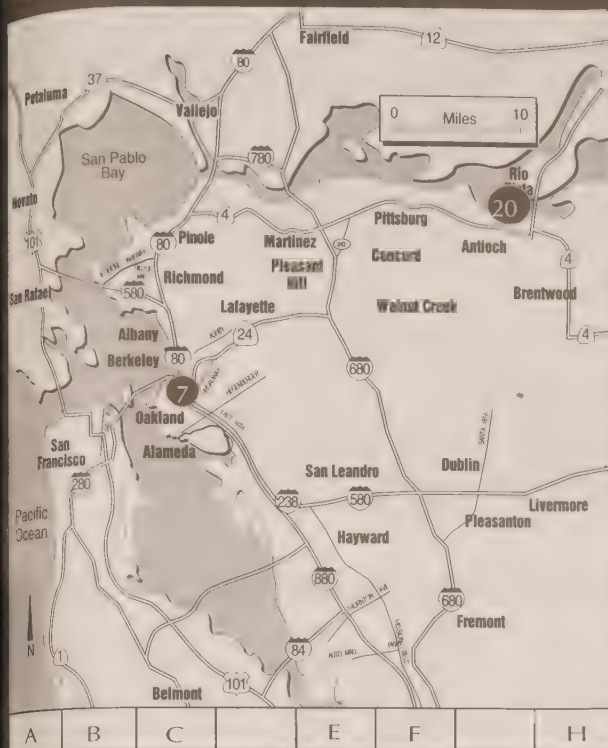
SOURCE: Better Business Bureau.
Edited and compiled by Chuck Myers.

School's in session — please drive safely

cars.com

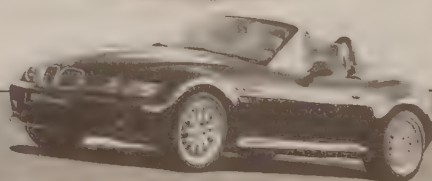
Hills Auto Directory

For Door-to-Door Directions visit www.ContraCostaTimes.com

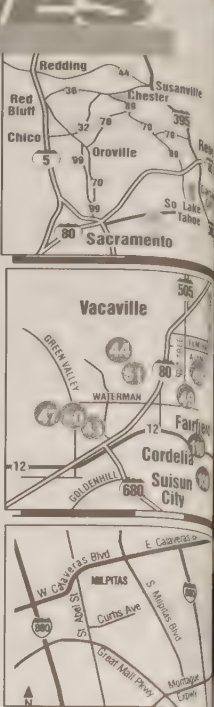
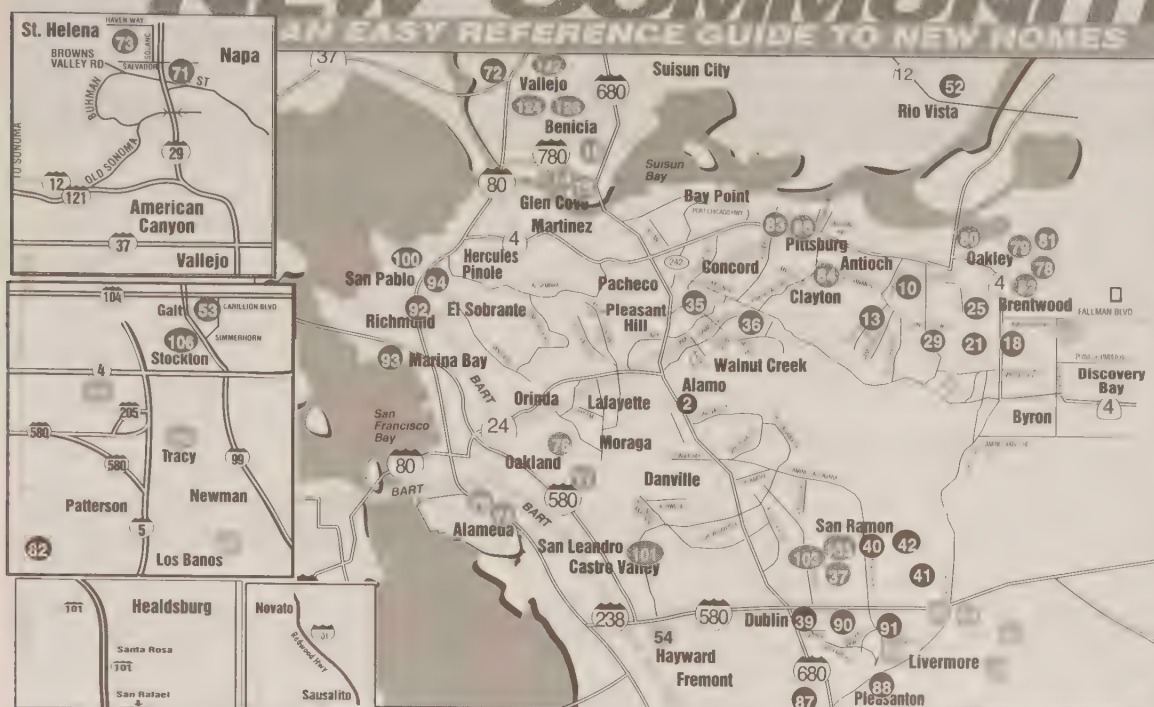


cars.com	ANTIOCH AUTO CENTER • Toyota • Chrysler • Plymouth • Jeep • Dodge • Nissan 1-800-778-4888 www.antiotechautocenter.com	OAKLAND'S TOYOTA STORE! TOYOTA DOWNTOWN TOYOTA 4145 BROADWAY • OAKLAND 510-547-4635	TOYOTA Toyota of Berkeley 2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 1-888-251-3634	cars.com
cars.com	cars.com	TOYOTA Experience Toyota VALLEJO <small>President, Dealer for California Association of 11 Year Programs</small> 1801 Admiral Callaghan Dr. Vallejo (800) 660-5660	CAVANAUGH MOTORS 1700 Park Street, Alameda (510) 523-5246	SATURN Saturn of 2355 Broadway Auto Row (510) 839-6400
TOYOTA Ron Goode Toyota 1825 Park St., Alameda 1-800-716-9634 www.rongoodtoyota.com	JIM DOTEN BERKELEY HONDA 2600 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510.843.3704 www.jimdotenhonda.com	cars.com	CHEVROLET GOOD CHEVROLET 1630 Park St., Alameda (510) 522-9221	SCION of Berkeley 2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 1-888-251-3634

CHEVROLET	NISSAN	TOYOTA
3. Good Chevrolet Area E 1630 Park St., Alameda (510) 522-9221	20. Antioch Nissan G-3 1615 West 10th St. (925) 755-2600	13. Downtown Toyota Area A 4145 Broadway, Oakland (510) 547-4635
CHRYSLER	SATURN	18. Toyota of Berkeley Area C 2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley (888) 251-3634 www.toyotaofberkeley.com
22. Cavanaugh Motors Area E 1700 Park Street, Alameda (510) 523-5246 75 years serving Alameda	14. Saturn of Oakland Area A 2355 Broadway Auto Row, Oakland (510) 839-6400	20. Antioch Toyota G-3 1810 "A" Sommersville Rd. (925) 778-7200
DODGE	SCION	21. Toyota Vallejo D-2 1180 Admiral Callaghan Way, Vallejo (800) 660-5660
20. Antioch Dodge G-3 Corner of Somersville & W. 10th St. (925) 778-9700	18. Scion of Berkeley 2400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley (888) 251-3634	22. Ron Goode Toyota Area E 1825 Park Street, Alameda (800) 716-9634 www.rongoodtoyota.com
HONDA		
5. Jim Doten Honda Area C5 2600 Shattuck Avenue • Berkeley (510) 843-3704 www.jimdotenhonda.com		



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ALAMO

2 Alamo Springs
\$2,000,000 to \$3,750,000. 1/2 acre, 4300 to 8500 sq. ft. Luxurious custom estates in prestigious new community. Close to downtown Alamo, Danville, W.C. great shopping, fine dining, entertainment & high performance schools. Best of everything in construction, quality & design. Come Development Corporation 925-551-7900

ANTIOCH

10 Baywoods
From the \$200,000s. Baywoods offers buyers the chance to own a home at an affordable price. Discover completely renovated two-bedroom condominiums and common area features such as a pool, Jacuzzi, gym and community room—all in a great location. Visit us online at www.BaywoodsAntioch.com and be the first to see this new community. (925) 757-1250.

13 Mira Vista Ridge
From the \$500,000s. Estate lots with 5 and 6 BR, up to 3600 sq. ft. with 3-car garages and options like tennis, studies, and bonus rooms. Water and lake views. James Dorian Blvd to Hampering Dr. 866-815-7199. www.seehomes.com

Waterfront Village
Coming Soon! Information Now Available. 11 waterfront homes, 3 and 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 1700-2300 sq. ft., one block from dining and shopping. Magnificent Water Views. Call Lenor Homes (925) 284-0415. www.lenorhomes.net

Harbor Walk
Now Selling! Beautiful downtown waterfront location. Harbor Walk features charming townhomes ranging from 1500-1700 sq. ft., 2-3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and alley leading to 2 bay garages. Also available is 1389-2367 sq. ft. of retail space. Enjoy waterfront living in Benicia, where fine dining, shopping and entertainment are all steps away from your doorstep. The Harbor Walk Sales Center is located at 129 1/2 Street in the Historic Tannery Building, Open Thurs. Tues. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Wed. 1 p.m.-6 p.m. (925) 747-5827. www.beniciohomes.com

Waters End
From the \$700,000s. Now Selling! Ideally situated in one of Benicia's most desirable bay side communities, Waters End features 4 exciting floorplans ranging from approx. 2750 to 3765 sq. ft. Stunning architectural styles offered include European Manor, Eastern Seaboard and Coastal Craftsman. Call 866-660-1283. www.watersendhomes.com

BRENTWOOD

18 Brookdale Court
From the low \$500,000s. Now Selling! These quaint single-family homes offer 1750 to 3327 sq. ft. of exquisite living spaces, featuring single story and two-story plans with 2 and 3 car garage options. Cottage styles, porches and spacious yards all lend themselves to Brookdale's relaxed environment. Communities will enjoy Brentwood's proximity to both the Tri-Valley and Bay Area business districts. Fine dining and entertainment can be found near by in Brentwood's historic downtown. Please call 877-844-7562. www.discoverbuilders.com

Garin Landing
Now selling from the low \$500,000s, distinctive single family home designs in popular Garin Ranch master-planned setting. Four home designs offered in Craftsman, Mediterranean & Traditional styles. Approx. 1501-2200 sq. ft., 3-4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Close to great schools, historic downtown, shops, golf, trails and water sports on the Delta. Models open Monday 12-6, Tuesday-Sunday 10-6 or call 925-240-1565. Broker cooperation welcome. www.sagwp.com

Dreamcatcher Ridge
Now opening! Priced From the \$700,000s. Prestigious golf course community located in the heart of the Delta. This lifestyle that we excited your expectations? Select from 1, 2 and 3 story plans from 2400 to 4847 square feet with 3 bedrooms, and up to 3.5 baths, a palette of luxurious amenities, the latest new home technologies, and many interior customizing possibilities! Four fully decorated models open daily 10-5 (925) 516-3500. www.dreamcatcher.com

The Parc at Cedarwood
From the low \$500,000s. The Parc at Cedarwood is an exciting new collection of spacious single-family home designs and a country club. Properties. Four floor plans range from approximately 1548 sq. ft. (three-bedroom, single-story) to 2,489 sq. ft. (five-bedroom, two-story) with up to three full bathrooms and private community pool. Amenities include planned park and good schools. Location is convenient to shopping and commute routes. Call (925) 513-1057. www.sagwp.com

Copper Gate
From the High 300,000s. Now open in Brentwood! Copper Gate, a collection of townhomes. Descriptive floor plans - 1404 to 1551 sq. ft. but live the single-family home. Inviting courtyards, attached 2-car garages, spacious living areas and private community pool. Convenient Brentwood location close to golf, downtown, Discovery Bay and Antioch. For more information, call the Bay Area Resource Center 888-660-1110 or visit www.dhiron.com. DJR Horton, America's Builder.

Stonebrook Estates
Priced from the low \$500,000s. Offering the extraordinary design of a floor plan, Stonebrook Estates features spacious homes ranging from approx. 2138 to 4776 sq. ft. with up to 7 BR and 3 BA. Convenient Brentwood location provides nearby access to BART, regional parks and the San Joaquin Delta. Open daily 10-5 pm. 925-215-7410. www.dhiron.com

CONCORD

35 Grubbs Woods
From the mid \$200,000s. Models Now Open! Early Bird Preview! 1, bedroom community homes ready for summer move in! Stainless steel appliances, brick cabinets, granite countertops, 800 to Willow Pass Road (East) Right on Garland on right hand side. Open Sat & Sun 10-5. (925) 685-7870.

Willow Walk
Models Now Open! Detached townhomes from the mid \$500,000s. Attached townhomes from mid \$500,000s. Discover an open living in Willow Walk, a new community that offers homebuyers 3-4 bedrooms and 2.5 baths with floorplans ranging from 1,451-1,864 sq. ft. With walking distance to historic Bodega Square Plaza, fine dining, shopping, and entertainment and convenient access to highways 242 and 680. Sales office is located at 2940 Jefferson Lane, just off Willow Pass Rd. and Parkside Open Saturday - Wednesday 11 a.m.-6 p.m. (925) 677-7420. www.bredco.com

DANVILLE

37 Wendt Ranch
From the low \$1,000,000s. Wendt Ranch offers Blackhawk, the grand and stately collection of single-family homes, artfully purchased from the hills of Danville. Exclusive 2nd residences range from approx. 2400 to 4000 sq. ft. with up to 7 bedrooms and 5 baths. Carefully crafted floor plans offer a variety of customizing options master retreat, living space, office suite, giving you the chance to express your own personal style. 925-648-4652

The Lakes
From the \$500,000s. Discovery Bay's Forest Cated Home Community. Five distinct communities ranging in size from 1,870 to 4,774 sq. ft. and highlighted by a 14-acre man-made lake, basketball and volleyball courts, resort pool course and walking trails. NOW SELLING. From 1,480 to 1.5, lake Hwy 4 towards Discovery Bay. Take Bate Rd. north and right on Fallman Blvd. Or call 1-800-760-LAKE. Visit www.DiscoverTheLakes.com

DUBLIN

39 Eian at Dublin Station
Coming soon! Eian at Dublin Station, a collection of affordable condominiums by D. R. Horton, America's Builder. Ranging from 860 - 1,558 sq. ft. Located 1 short block from the Dublin BART Station. (888) 560-1110. www.dhiron.com

40 Silvera Ranch
Now Open! Three styles of homes, each with multiple floor plans. Choose between Silvera Homes, Manors and Villa Town Homes. Located in the peaceful Dublin foothills with close access to the amenities of urban living. Open weekends, Saturday & Sunday 10:00AM-5:00PM. 925-517-8877, 8833 Tassajara Road, Dublin, CA. www.primros.com

41 Korbury
From the low \$700,000s. Located along Tassajara Creek, these homes, specially designed to suit today's lifestyle, offer the best in modern living. Featuring two and three story homes, with up to 4 bedrooms and 3 1/2 bathrooms, models range in size from 1,675 to 2,125 square feet. Located off of Tassajara Road in Dublin, take a turn at Somers Lane. Sales office open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM. For more information call (925) 829-7300 or visit www.greenhills.com

42 Dublin Ranch Villages - The Villas
Priced from the low \$500,000s. One of four villages located in this unique townhome and condominium community. Includes 2 bedrooms and 3 1/2 bathrooms, models range in size from 1,240 to 1,540 sq. ft. floor plans to select from & 4 models home to view Tassajara Rd. east turn right on Dublin Blvd. and follow signs. Open daily 11-5. 925-479-9852. www.dublinranchvillages.com

43 Dublin Ranch Villages - The Courtyards
Priced from the low \$500,000s. One of four villages located in this unique townhome and condominium community. From 1290 to 1900 sq. ft., 3 & 4 elegant floor plans to select from & 4 decorated models to view. Take Tassajara Rd. east turn right on Dublin Blvd. and follow signs. Open daily 11-5. 925-479-9852. www.dublinranchvillages.com

FAIRFIELD

43 Siena at Green Valley
From the \$500,000s. 2 story homes with 1,489-2,018 sq. ft., 2-3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Located in the prestigious Solano County. Please call the sales office for more information 704-862-9251 or visit us on the web at www.vibhomes.com

44 Andaleucia
From the \$700,000s. Now Open! Two beautiful new home communities in desirable Rancho Solano. Model homes range from approx. 2,205-3,816 sq. ft., 3-5 bedrooms and up to 3.7 bathrooms. Seven floor plans ranging from approx. 2,780 to 3,940 sq. ft., 3-5 bedrooms and up to 4.5 bathrooms. Room options include executive room, master retreat, guest suite and game room. Granite countertops, living room fireplace, stainless steel appliances and French doors are available. Close to shopping, 180, and schools. 3001 Piedra Beach Circle. 707-442-3199. Open Sat. Thurs. 11 am-5 pm, Fri. 2 pm-5 pm. www.standardpacifichomes.com

45 Aria
Aria Models are Now Open! From the \$1,000,000s. Nestled within the Green Valley area's breathtaking oak-shaded hillsides, Aria is an elegant new-home collection offering a sophisticated standard of living. Here, discerning homebuyers will rediscover Clifton Northing's artistic approach to homebuilding with 10 custom-quality homes that offer up to 7 bedrooms, 2000 to 3565 sq. ft., and homesites that maximize views of the surrounding natural beauty. This is the good life. 707-664-1585. www.cliftonnorthing.com

46 Eschridge Ridge
Last View Homesites! From the low \$1,000,000s. Great community of luxury homes on spacious home sites. Offering one-half acre homesites and oak-shaded rolling hills. Designs from approx. 3175 to 4550 sq. ft., with 3 to 5 bedrooms and up to 3.5 baths, many with 4 car garage. Customers with optional master suite designer upgrades. Enter through Eschridge main gate at Eschridge Drive and Green Valley Road. Open on Oakland Drive. Right on Bayridge Plaza. Open daily, 9am-5pm, 707-864-8800. www.homesitebydavidson.com

48 Paradise Crest
From the high \$500,000s. Nestled in the rolling hills near Fairfield's popular Paradise Valley Golf Course. Four luxurious floor plans are available, ranging from 2,257 to 4,000 sq. ft. Amenities include Corian kitchen countertops, phone and cable in all bedrooms, and 3 car garages. Options include Plasma TV and swimming pools. Homes are comparable to include lake, tennis, and/or tennis courts. Call W. 6802, Eschridge Drive, Fairfield, CA. Open Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-6. 866-615-7165 or www.seehomes.com

49 Southbrook
Now Selling! From the high \$400,000s. Two distinct neighborhoods. Crestview offers 3-5 bedrooms in size ranging from 1232 to 2448 sq. ft. Camden offers four unique floor plans ranging from 1710 to 2178 sq. ft. with 3-4 bedrooms. Both are ideally located near 480 and Hwy 680, shopping, schools, and walking trails. Models open daily 10-5. 744-866-881. www.seehomes.com

50 Turnstone
From the \$500,000s. Grand Opening April 2nd! Designed for your future, here, you'll find a new generation of attached home living with 1,791 to 2,170 sq. ft. of classic architecture. Sharing a garage wall only, Turnstone gives you the best of low-maintenance lifestyles and the privacy and space you deserve. These timeless 3 and 4 bedroom residences have incredibly innovative floorplans and are placed in the most stunning of settings. Turnstone - homes for the way you live. For information please go to www.cliftonnorthing.com or call 800-647-4049.

51 The Villas at Tuscany Hills
Priced from the high \$300,000s. Luxury homes in Rancho Solano Private gated active adult community near Rancho Solano Country Club. Approx. 1,405 sq. ft. plans. Gourmet kitchens with granite countertops, tile floors and stainless steel appliances. Resort like amenities, pool, spa, tennis, 3520 Rancho Solano Pkwy, Fairfield, 707-429-9170.

RIO VISTA

52 Trilogy at Rio Vista
From the low \$300,000s. 6 Model Homes and 13 Floor plans, 1,251-2,541 Square Feet. Situated near the banks of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, Trilogy offers luxury homes with an impressive list of features and amenities. Open daily 10-5. There are over 4000 square feet of amenities including our Delta Club and the new Vista Club. You'll enjoy indoor as well as outdoor pool, spa, tennis, and more. Call for more information. conference center, our Center for Higher Learning, World of the Art Fitness facility, Cyber Cafe, Lakeside Grille, and our Rio Vista championship golf course. 888-257-0229. www.trilogy.com

53 Keystone
From the mid \$500,000s. Five spacious homes ranging from 2192 to 3746 sq. ft. Homes are located on 8-10,000 sq. ft. homesites and feature 3-5 bedrooms, tile bonus rooms and 2 & 4 car garages. Kitchen and master suite work island, granite, and GE appliances. Call 209-745-7600. The Hofmann Company. www.hofmannhomes.com

HAYWARD

54 Garin Crest
From the \$400,000s. Now Selling! Up to 4113 sq. ft. 1, luxurious custom homes. Breakthrough views of the SF Bay! Be one of the first to own in the exclusive hillside community. New Garin Regional Park. Call 925-451-7000. Visit www.garincrest.com

The Corners
From the low \$1,000,000s. Models now open, 1 and 2 story homes from 3234-4119 sq. ft. Up to 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths with 3 car garages. 3 fireplaces, Viking appliances and much more. On Wilshire Road between Holmes and Arroyo. Call 925-413-3168

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Cresta Blanca Estates
From the mid \$500,000s. NOW SELLING! Distinctive single-family homes in the S. Livermore wine country. 3-6 BR, 2190-3000 sq. ft. for local homesites. Rich Craftsman-inspired designs include friendly front porches, detached garages w/ optional living space above and large yards. Located near park with trails surrounded by vineyards. Open Tues-Sun 10-6, Mon 12-6. For info call (925) 960-9220 or visit www.sagwp.com

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NAPA

71 Derby Parc at Sheveland Ranch
From the low \$500,000s. Derby Parc at historic Sheveland Ranch is now offering two and three bedroom single-family residences with three unique, specially designed floor plans spanning up to 1,964 square feet of living space. Country homes, world-class wineries, parks, and museums all nearby. Exit 604 off Highway 29 in Napa, right on professor Lane. Sales office open 10 am to 5 pm daily. Open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Friday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. (707) 257-1833. Castle Companies. www.shevelandranch.com

72 Silverado Terrace
From the \$700,000s. Now Open. Exclusive collection of 41 single family homes in the S. Livermore wine country. 3-6 BR, 2003-3117 sq. ft. Many options including GE Monogram kitchen appliances, tile floors, and granite. Call 925-451-7000. Visit www.silveradoterrace.com

73 Capriana
From \$899,990 to \$1,149,990. MODELS NOW FOR SALE! Six beautifully finished models at Capriana in Northwest Napa. 2,600-3,117 sq. ft. Many options including GE Monogram kitchen appliances, tile floors, and granite. Call 925-451-7000. Visit www.capriana.com

OAKLAND

The Estuary
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From the high \$400,000s. A collection of contemporary condominiums and flats by Signature Properties located one block from the Oakland waterfront. Plans (800-1942) sq. ft., 1-4 bedrooms offer dramatic living areas, beautifully appointed kitchens, private dockhouses, landscaped courtyard and gated parking. Close to BART, fine freeways, downtown Oakland and Alameda. Great new home value in an up-and-coming area. Call (510) 532-8943 or go to www.sagwp.com

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From the high \$900,000s. Located along the Oakland Hills, with stunning views of San Francisco Bay, Protea Properties, Inc. presents their final two newly constructed homes from 2,490 sq. ft. Beautifully appointed with hardwood and marble flooring, granite slab counters, and high quality local carpet. Open from 12-4 on Sat. and Sun. at 10 am to 5 pm. Call 925-950-1244 to Keller, next to Skyline Blvd. and left to Skyline Cl. For more information, please call 510-465-8888.

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OAKLEY

78 Briarwood
From the upper \$400,000s. Open for Sales! Descriptive home designs, open floor plans designed for contemporary lifestyles, and an impressive list of features and amenities. Convenient location off Hwy 4. Select from 1 or 2-story home designs ranging from 2,141 to 3,067 sq. ft., with 3 to 4 bedrooms and up to 3 baths. Open daily 10-5. (925) 789-3354. www.dhiron.com

Parklands
From the upper \$400,000s. Beautiful single family homes. Models now open. One and two story 3 to 5 bedroom plans from 1710 to 2723 sq. ft. In Oakley off Highway 4 (Main Street) east on Laurel Road, right at Tilton Road, left at Roseville Court, left at Jon Court. Sales office open daily 10-5. For more information call 925-825-8851. www.hawkeyecompanies.com

Monarch Ranch
From the mid \$500,000s. Seem Homes is proud to present the newest addition to the Oakley community. Monarch Ranch features spacious single family homes ranging from approx. 1785-4,412 sq. ft. with up to 6 bedrooms and 3 baths. Optional tiles, additional bedrooms, tile floors, and bonus rooms are also available. These spacious plans offer huge great rooms, gourmet kitchens, and luxurious master bedroom suites. Monarch Ranch offers the very best in new home amenities. 866-313-8119

Brookstone
From the low \$500,000s. Open for Sales! Brookstone will have the appetite for fine home design! Move up home buyers will appreciate the Brookstone planned and well-appointed homes in the Bay Area, Pleasanton and Livermore. Brookstone features plans ranging from 2,750 to 3,000 square feet. Open daily 10-5. (925) 972-5556. www.dhiron.com

Wildrose
From the mid \$400,000s. Open for Sales! Wildrose has it all... quality, style, features, and a convenient Oakley location. Wildrose is a collection of three unique architectural floor plans - both inside and out, and packed with many of today's most desirable new home features and amenities. Adding to the appeal is a convenient location offering an easy commute to employment centers in the Bay Area, Pleasanton and Livermore. Brookstone features plans ranging from 2,750 to 3,000 square feet. Open daily 10-5. (925) 972-5556. www.dhiron.com

PATTERSON

83 The Reserve at Diablo Grande
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PITTSBURG

83 Valencia at San Marco
From the low \$600,000s. Discover Homes' newest master planned community, Valencia in San Marco is in the rolling hills of Pittsburg, with breathtaking views of the Delta mountains. This fabulous neighborhood offers homes that range from 2,363 to 3,536 sq. ft. featuring 3 or 4 bedrooms, and up to 4 bathrooms. An ideal location for commuters. San Marco offers close proximity to North Concord BART, Bay Point BART and Hwy 4. Please call 877-744-7444. www.valenciahomes.com

Highlands Ranch
From the low \$500,000s. Bay Area's Best Buy. Single family homes with plans ranging in size between 1734 & 4300 sq. ft. features 3-6 bedrooms, 2.5 car garages w/optional tile floors, studies & bonus rooms. Hwy 4/Livermore Rd. east turn left on Buchanan Road and right on Meadow. For more information call 866-517-1166. www.seehomes.com

Harbor Lights II
Priced from the low \$400,000s. Now Open! Traditional collection of single family homes in convenient Pittsburg location. 1,718 to 2,133 sq. ft. with 2-3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths. Throughly planned interiors. Descriptive exteriors. Open daily from 10-5 (925) 427-0223. www.dhiron.com

PLEASANTON

87 Westridge at Lemorne Ranch Estates
From the mid \$1,000,000s. Grand Opening! 12 new single-family homes overlooking the Tri Valley on Pleasanton's west side. 3100-4100 sq. ft. with amazing home sites (up to 5 acres) & best close to shopping, schools, 680 & 580. 4476 Tassara Ct. (off of Foothill Blvd). Call 925-931-0294 for more information or visit www.dhironhomes.com

Pheasant Ridge
From the mid \$1,000,000s. Models Now Open! These one and two-story, 5-6 bedroom and 4-5 bath luxury residences feature up to 5328 sq. ft. of elegant living space along Pleasanton Ridge. Visit Pheasant Ridge by taking the 680 to Bernal Ave. west and left on West Lagoon Rd. Homes are 10-15 days. Call 925-931-9588. www.dhironhomes.com

Bordeaux
From the high \$1,000,000s. Experience the rich rewards of wine country living at Bordeaux Country Estates. Located in Pleasanton, these 17 elegant homes feature up to 5 bedrooms and 4-1/2 bathrooms and range in size from 3,650 to 4,950 square feet on homesites up to 16,000 square feet. Located off of Vineyard Ave. in Pleasanton, take a turn at Machado Plaza. Sales office open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM. For more information call (925) 800-8288 or visit www.dhironhomes.com

Vineyard Hills
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Seacraft at Point Richmond
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Fairways at Country Club Vista
From the low \$500,000s. Builder Closeout! Country Club Vista, Hilly's premier address, is now offering 3 and 4 bedroom single family residences at Fairways, the master planned community's newest neighborhood. Well crafted floor plans up to 1722 square feet giving families single plans with maximum value. Richmond Country Club and golf course, shopping, restaurants and Costa Costa. College area is just a short drive away. Take Richmond Parkway west, turn left on Alamo Road. Open Wed - Mon, 10:00am to 5pm. (510) 243-0424. Santa Clara Valley Housing Group. www.svhg.com

Newport Cove
From the mid \$300,000s. Now Selling. West Sacramento buyers will want to visit this community! Offering primarily 2-3 bedroom Sacramento the American River and commercial area. Call 925-677-9550. www.discoverbuilders.com

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SAN PABLO

100 Abella Village
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DOORS

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dishes, hshld & klt
Items, clothes, elec-
tronics. All excel cond.

HUGE YARD SALE
3501 11th St. Sat./Sun
April 30 May 1, 9-5pm
Childrens clothes/
toys, child's
train bed, misc.
household items,
many items like new.

San Ramon

2 FAMILY SALE

Antiques, little Tikes play structure, brass bed, kid's toys & clothes, mannequin, Featherweight &

HAIRY SALE
Saturday, April 8, 8-12pm
9748 Broadmoor Dr.
No Early Birds Please! Coll. dolls, mens, womens clothing, baby items & furn.

LARGE 5-FAMILY SALE!
2363 S. SPRINGDALE RD.
(off Broadmoor)
SAT. 4/8/15 9am-12pm
Tons of fabric, craft items, Uniforms (cher & blue), mens, womens clothing (+ size), Beans, collect., more

MEGA COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE IN WINNEPEGA
Saturday Only 8-1pm
More than 50 homes to pick up maps @ 2015 Longleaf Cir. (off Winnepeg Ave.)
Furn., toys, books, clothing, tools, etc.

MEGA Multi-Fam SALE!
April 30th Sat., 8-1pm
32 Centennial Way
Household Items, Kid's clothing, toys, etc.

MOVING SALE
3408 BEXUMDA COURT
 Sofas, PC desk, tools,
 paintings, art, electronics,
 toys & much more
SATURDAY 9am-2pm

• **DON'T MISS THIS** •

MOVING SALE
 440 Sam Houston Dr.
SAT. & SUN. 8-3PM
 Yard equipment, gas
 grill, exercise machine,
 misc. & MUCH
 MORE!

MOVING SALE
SAT. 4/30. 8-?
3002 Midbridge Dr.
Broadmore/Davona
 Oak floor, granite ware,
 tools, patio furn., and
 much more!

SALESMAN
SAMPLE SALE
MOVING SALE
WAX
 R. Broadmore &
 Monte Vido
SAT. 4/30. 9-11 AM
 Silk flowers and
 Christmas decor.

1952 Montclair Ct.
Saturday/Sunday
10am-5pm On-site
sofa, dining table

ESTATE SALE
Sat-Sun 10-4
1485 Montclair #317
1000 sq. ft. 2 bdr.
enter, sofabed, din-
ette, Tvs, pictures,
more. 925-980-7493

FAMILY SALE
2768 Larkey Ln.
WED. 10AM-5PM
Gammis, 2 bdr.,
washer & dryer,
MISC & MUCH MORE!

RI-SAT 4/20/90, 8-3
1423 Line Tree Ct
our name. If - we've
at IT Furniture, hshld
items, boating & fish-
ing, lawn care equip.,
electronics, electronic equip.,
Ds, videos

BARBECUE SALE
SAT. 4/30, 7pm-Moon
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1st: Cantarello

TOYS, hsehld items & lots more!
DUDE FURNITURE SALE
ouchhold col-
lectibles, clothes, toys
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Sun 12-4 Bargains!

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lectibles, glass
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rockers x 2/sleeper,
Christmas t/s, baby
crabs, urns

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April 29-30
3:30-6pm Friday
8am-2pm Saturday
Rochester Hills, MI 48306
Multi fam'l antiques, lots
of misc. Eagle Peak
Montessori

FAIR SALE
April 29-30
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b'dy, glass, misc.,
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— 188 —

What are you driving?

Auto Plus

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Friday, August 24, 2001

Section D

Classic Classics: MGB still going strong [D3]

DAVE VAN SICKLE
Down the Road

Most gas-saving gadgets fall short of touted claims

When gasoline prices began to rise, so do motorists' concerns about fuel economy.

Not so coincidentally, a jump in gas prices is often accompanied by vigorous advertising of gas-saving gadgets, supported by claims that sound too good to be true.

For years, the Federal Trade Commission has warned motorists to be wary of gas-saving devices or air and gas additives. According to the FTC, most fuel-saving gadgets and additives simply don't work, and even the few products that have been found to work produce negligible savings.

Worse yet, several devices actually increase exhaust emissions, and under federal regulations, their installation could be considered illegal tampering.

After evaluating over 100 alleged gas-saving devices, the EPA has found only a few that actually improve fuel economy, and none that do so significantly.

The automotive aftermarket offers no less than 10 different categories of gadgets to lure the unsuspecting motorist.

The array of gadgets that don't work includes:

- Air and vapor bleed devices that add air to the intake manifold for a leaner mixture.

- Liquid injectors that add water to the air-fuel mixture in the manifold.

- Ignition modifiers, most of which replace existing ignition parts.

See DGMN Page D2



ACURA RSX TYPE-S is a fun little sports car to drive and much roomier and less noisy than expected. The ride is a bit bouncy, but steering is easy.

Acura RSX makes shifting much more enjoyable

TOM KEANE
Keane on Wheels

In spite of summer's heat, the hot little 2002 Acura RSX Type-S puts fun back into driving. This sports coupe, with its buzzy engine, makes time pass quickly.

My first impressions were strong. I loved the little car's too small, too noisy, too much work, too bouncy, too everything. But I didn't take long for the RSX to win me over. In retrospect, I think it was the six-speed manual transmission that did it.

The RSX Type-S has a 200-horsepower, 2.0-liter four-cylinder VTEC engine. It is not powerful, but

linked to the six-speed transmission, shifting gears becomes important in getting up to and maintaining speed. This makes it necessary to keep an eye on the tachometer as well as the speedometer, which is something I find enjoyable when driving a sports car.

Acura engineers explain the VTEC engine as one that continuously adjusts valve timing for enhanced performance and efficiency across a broad power band. Although the RSX is available linked to a five-speed automatic transmission, the top-of-the-line S-Type

comes with only a six-speed manual transmission. This close-ratio transmission gives the driver in control of the car's speed.

The RSX isn't a fast, powerful car, but the combination of the engine and shifter really makes driving locally or on long trips enjoyable, especially on winding, twisting roads.

Tasting around turns, took awhile to adjust to before I became comfortable. At first, I was skeptical. But when I realized what the Acura engineers told me with true claim to world-class quality and superior engineering, Acura's reputation for reliability and performance was confirmed.

Although the RSX is a small car, it's roomy with a lot of storage space. I think they are putting the wine apps too far. The ride is a bit bouncy unless the road surface is smooth, but the car is very easy to steer and the small diameter of the steering wheel feels great.

I'm sold. The RSX displays new, sophisticated new-world precision steering and newly designed Control Blade MacPherson strut front suspension, which is the reason for the great steering performance. The Type-S has even larger springs and dampers than a larger, more status-type car.

Perhaps that accounts for the bouncy ride, yet it makes handling more enjoyable.

Also, this engine is designed to

See KEANE Page D2

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We are seeking exceptional candidates for the following:

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The Medical Imaging Manager has operational responsibility to assure the provision of appropriate and quality patient diagnostics, tests and reporting of results for the Medical Imaging Services. The manager is accountable to meet established hospital standards of care through effective staffing, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation of policies, procedures and objectives. You'll also work in collaboration with other department managers, administration, radiologists and members of the auxiliary/medical staff to meet hospital strategic objectives and promotes patient focused safe work environment. Position requires a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent experience in Radiology, Business or Health Administration. Candidate must be a registered Radiologic Technologist. Bachelor's Degree in a related field highly desired.

CODER-LEVEL II

Level II Coder assigns ICD-9CM and CPT-4 codes to diseases and procedures in order to provide information required for billing, optimal DRG assignments and help create the foundation for the hospital's statistical database. The MRC determines information to be abstracted from inpatient and outpatient medical records to establish a database used by the hospital for quality assurance studies, statistical reports, administrative planning and research. Requires a Diploma or equivalent plus at least one of the following certifications: RHIT, RHIA, and/or C.C.S. A minimum of 3 years recent coding experience in an acute care facility strongly desired.

PHYSICAL THERAPIST

Reporting to the Rehabilitation Manager, the Physical Therapist provides professional rehabilitation services to patients including evaluations, planning and implementation of individual patient care programs and treatments. You'll also provide functional direction and rehabilitation assignments to the Physical Therapy Aide, and perform other related duties as required. Requires graduation from an APTA accredited school of Physical Therapy. Must be licensed and registered to practice in the State of California and should possess BLS/CPR certification from the American Heart Association. Prior acute care/outpatient experience preferred, although new graduates will be considered.

RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGIST

In this position, you'll produce quality diagnostic radiographs, process film, maintain records of service performed, and make adjustments and minor repairs on equipment. You'll also ensure effective communication/documentation and work with high risk and critically ill patients. Position requires graduation from a Joint Commission-approved School of Radiologic Technology, current CA Radiologic Technologist licensure, and current CPR/BCLS. Previous experience as a Registered Radiologic Technologist as well as prior work experience in an acute care facility preferred. CART fluoroscopy permit highly desired.

RESPIRATORY CARE PRACTITIONER

The Respiratory Care Practitioner performs the activities of an RCP in both therapeutic and diagnostic procedures, sets up and operates various types of respiratory care equipment to be utilized in the diagnosis and treatment of respiratory disease and/or illness. Position requires current CA RCP licensure and NRP Certification. A current NRP Certification is required within the first 18 months of employment. Registered Respiratory Therapist and prior experience in a clinical setting highly desired.

CLINICAL NURSE EDUCATOR

The Clinical Nurse Educator will be a professional Registered Nurse who, as a result of prior and continuous education, experience with precepting and instruction of new graduates as well as experienced nurses, and in-depth clinical experience in defined areas of nursing practice, possess the knowledge and clinical skills necessary to provide coaching, counseling and training nursing in the hospital. The major role functions are clinical practice, education, program development, consultation, and research. Responsible for the standard of quality of nursing care of our patient population. This position focuses on clinical and education needs of staff to improve care and advance patient care practices. The ideal candidate must possess ASN or BSN plus current CA RN license and a minimum 5 years of combined clinical nursing experience in a variety of hospital nursing units with experience in staff development and precepting. Must be BLS, ACLS, PALS certified and obtain BLS, ACLS and PALS instructor certification within 9 months of hire.

PAYROLL REPRESENTATIVE

Responsible for the inputting and processing of payroll including maintenance of all related tables per pay, practice rules and union contracts. In addition, you'll also be responsible for accurately calculating and inputting payroll, taxes and benefit deductions according to federal, state, and county laws, relating to hospital policies, benefits programs and union agreements. Prepare quarterly and year-end tax filings, reconcile W-2 forms, and year end payroll closing. Candidate must possess HS diploma or equivalent, 3-5 years previous payroll experience in a union environment (preferably in a hospital environment,) plus 3 years previous experience with an integrated payroll system such as Lawson. College level accounting courses preferred.

PC/LAN SUPPORT TECHNICIAN I

We are seeking a dynamic candidate proficient with DOS, Windows 9x, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Microsoft Office 2000, XP and 2003, and Microsoft Publisher to maintain, analyze, troubleshoot, and repair computer systems, hardware and computer peripherals. In this challenging position, you'll identify, research, and resolve technical problems, respond to telephone calls, e-mail and personal requests for technical support. You'll also document, track and monitor the problem to ensure a timely resolution, support and maintain user account information including rights, security and systems groups. Provide hardware and software support for 400 Windows 2000 PCs in an Active Directory environment. Requires HS Diploma/equivalent and 2+ years of experience supporting PC hardware and software in an NT LAN environment. A+ Certification preferred.

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Director of Staff Development – This RN will plan and conduct in-services and clinical training programs for all personnel. Must have strong teaching and communication skills. DSD certified preferred.

Nurse Staffing Coordinator – HCR ManorCare, the recognized leader in long-term care, is searching for a full-time Nurse Staffing Coordinator for our Walnut Creek facility. This candidate must be highly organized with excellent problem solving skills to coordinate daily and monthly schedules and assist with other medical projects as needed. Prior experience preferred.

Part-Time MDS Coordinator – This is an excellent opportunity for a Part-Time MDS Nurse with previous MDS/PPS experience preferred. The ideal candidate must have strong assessment skills, attention to detail and organizational skills. Strong time management skills a must.

We offer excellent compensation with a full benefit package including 401(K), tuition reimbursement, and assistance with Student Loans.



Please call or visit:

**Caroline Wynne, HR Director
 ManorCare Health Services**

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AP Planning Manager \$91,155 - \$110,799 Deadline: 5/13/05
Assistant Counsel I \$96,400 - \$117,175 Deadline: 5/6/05
www.baagmd.gov (415) 749-4980 EOE
ESCROW ASSISTANT
Must be exp. Friendly. Gr. bnt. pkg. Salary DOE. Resumes. karol@placertitle.com or fax 925-339-9206 Web ID CC04281309489
ESTHETICIAN
needed in new spa, downtown Concord. Mature, self-motivated, easy going individual. Call res: 925-381-0106
FAMILIESFIRST
SHARED FAMILY CARE
Seeking mentors in C.C.Co. to open their homes to a family in need. Monthly stipend, training & case mgmt. 1-800-958-5809 Web ID CC04061258198
FENCE BUILDER
4yrs exp Valid D.L. \$15/hr start. Call 925-685-6783
FENCE ERECTOR
Foreman, helpers. Immed. employment. Pd med. vac. & holidays. Pay DOE. Cdl req. Apply at Delta Fence Co. 6901 Brentwood Blvd., Brentwood. 925-634-8960 Web ID CC04141287043
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Growing A/R Co. seeks mgmt. trainee for expanding bank portfolio. Degree preferred. Good phone skills & professionalism. 800-210-4350 X 7054 Web ID CC04141286380
GENERAL
JOINTAIR
New proj., hundreds of temp to perm. jobs! Start next week, apply @ Antioch Ramada Inn 2436 Mahogany Way, Sat 4/30, 12-6PM. Mon 5/2-4-800-834-1720
GENERAL-PT-Moraga
Country Club needs a Cart Attendant/Range Person w/cd. person skills for morning & afternoon. Call O'Brien-925.376.2253 Fax 925-376.7835
GOVERNMENT
DUBLIN SAN RAMON SERVICES DISTRICT
Mechanical Supervisor
Monthly Salary: \$6,441 - \$7,828
Instrumentation Supervisor
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Apply online at: https://secure.cps.ca.gov/mss/jobs/ListRecruitments.asp. You may download a paper application from www.dsrdsd.com or you may request one be mailed to you along with a job announcement, by calling Katie Souza at (916) 263-3614 x3079.
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HAIRSTYLIST Exp'd
Moraga F/T-P/T. Min. \$10/hr+comm brnts. 798-0226, 787-4338(C)
HAIRSTYLIST
Manicurist Sta., pvt. facial rm. or 925-838-8985 Web ID CC04201295204
HAIRSTYLIST, Massage Therapist, Esthetician
Manicurist \$10.75-12.50
HAIRSTYLIST - Salary
Co. m. \$11-\$13/hr. Concord 925-685-8312
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Marriott
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**Sutter Health**
Community Based. Not For Profit

Allied Health Professionals

WE'LL MEET YOU HALFWAY ON TREASURE ISLAND

Advance Your Career With A Leading Not-For-Profit Health Care Organization.

Make A Date To Attend Sutter Health's

ALLIED HEALTH EVENT

Tuesday, May 3, 2005
From 2-6 pm


This is an invitation for
**Respiratory Therapists,
Radiological Technologists,
Occupational Therapists,
Physical Therapists and
Clinical Lab Scientists** to
meet with Managers from
Sutter Health affiliates, learn
about the latest technologies,
and explore exciting opportunities
right where you live.

- Alta Bates Summit Medical Center
- California Pacific Medical Center
- Eden Medical Center
- Marin General Hospital/Novato Community Hospital
- Mills-Peninsula Health Services

- Sacramento Sierra Region
- St. Luke's Hospital
- Sutter Delta Medical Center
- Sutter Health @ Work
- Sutter Medical Center of Santa Rosa
- Sutter Solano Medical Center
- Sutter VNA & Hospice

• Grand Prize: A Luxury Suite at SBC Park for a Giants Game during the 2005 Season. Includes seats for 12 guests and 2 parking passes.
• Drawing for Tickets to Teatro ZinZanni
• Enjoy hors d'oeuvres

RSPV BY TUESDAY, APRIL 26th • CALL: 916-286-6630
E-Mail: shrecruitmentevents@sutterhealth.org
Take the Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island exit from the Bay Bridge • See us at Casa de la Vista

**CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES**

At Contra Costa Health Services, our people make the difference!

Contra Costa Health Services is a comprehensive county health system located in the beautiful family-based community of Contra Costa County. CCHS employs more than 3,500 individuals and is dedicated to improving the health of all people in Contra Costa County with special attention to those who are most vulnerable to health problems. With the opening of the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center the people of Contra Costa gained a valuable new community resource: a modern state-of-the-art public hospital dedicated to serving the health care needs of all county residents.

With an excellent management team and a growing need for county health services, NOW is the time to join our dynamic staff.

We are seeking exceptional nursing candidates in the following areas:

EMERGENCY • OR • DETENTION • INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

We offer an outstanding benefits package and competitive salaries.

Full-time, part-time, and per-diem shift opportunities and the ability to gain valuable experience in a variety of nursing departments.

For immediate consideration, please contact Linda Bates, Nurse Recruiter, at (925) 370-5771, or by email: Lbates@hds.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

We also have the following openings:

Licensed Vocational Nurse (\$3,663 - \$4,678/mo) • Certified Medical Assistant (\$3,015 - \$3,665/mo) • Pharmacist I (\$7,130 - \$8,253/mo)
Junior Radiologic Technologist (\$4,202 - \$5,107/mo) • Senior Radiologic Technologist (\$4,972 - \$6,044/mo) • Medical Transcriber (\$3,008 - \$3,841/mo)
Environmental Health Specialist I & II (\$4,736 - \$5,757/mo & \$5,097 - \$6,195/mo)

To obtain an application, please visit the Contra Costa County website at: www.co.contra-costa.ca.us
or call the Health Services Personnel Department at: (925) 957-5240. EOE

What are you driving?

Auto Plus

Advertising supplement to The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, August 24, 2001

Section D

Classic Classics: MGB still going strong [D3]

DAVE VAN SICKLE

Most gas-saving gadgets fall short of touted claims

When gasoline prices began to rise so do motorists' concerns about fuel economy.

Not so coincidentally, a jump in gas prices is often accompanied by vigorous advertising of gas-saving gadgets, "supported" by claims that found no savings at all.

For years, the Federal Trade Commission has warned motorists to beware of gas-saving claims for additives. According to the FTC, most fuel-saving additives and oil treatments simply don't work, and even the few products that have been found to work produce disappointing savings.

Worse yet, several devices actually increase exhaust emissions, and under federal regulations, their installation could be considered a legal tampering.

After evaluating over 100 alleged gas-saving devices, the EPA has found only a few that actually improve fuel economy, and none that do so significantly.

The automotive aftermarket offers no less than a different case of gadgetry to lure the unsuspecting motorists.

The array of gadgets that don't work includes:

- Air and vapor bleed devices that add air to the intake manifold for a leaner mixture.
- Liquid injectors that add water to the air/fuel mixture in the manifold.
- Ignition modifiers, most of which replace existing ignition parts.

See JCVN Page D2



ACURA RSX TYPE-S is a fun little sports car to drive and much roomier and less noisy than expected. It handles a little like a steering wheel.

Acura RSX makes shifting much more enjoyable

TOM KEANE

Twisty, winding roads are a breeze to adapt to, and the RSX is comfortable. At first, I was skeptical. But when I realized what the Acura engineers told me was true, I began to search out every winding road in the area. Acura has developed an all-new suspension and steering system.

Although the RSX is a fun little sports car to drive and much roomier and less noisy than expected, it handles a little like a steering wheel.

The RSX is a fun little sports car to drive and much roomier and less noisy than expected. It handles a little like a steering wheel.

New, used or classic...
every Friday in Auto Plus.

HILLS NEWSPAPERS

THE BERKELEY VOICE • THE JOURNAL • THE MONTCLARION
THE PIEDMONTER • ALAMEDA JOURNAL

The Auto Section

Boats	Travel Trailers	Motorcycles	Trucks	Trucks	Sport Utility	Sport Utility	Sport Utility	Custom & Classic
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KLAMATH 1983 14' 15hp 4-stroke, ready for basin fishing \$3000 Call 925-499-1394	2000 22 Travel Trlr. acc. cond. 925-687-3863	ZAMBOHA 1973 40HP \$2000/bk. 925-777-0095	CHEVROLET 1996 Silverado, slide out bd. 01K. 510-632-2730	FORD 1967 150 smol 4 reg. ***SOLD*** Call 925-788-6211	Vehicles	CHEVY 2004 Trailblazer 4x4, 6 spd, 120,000 mi. Used Rental Vehicle	GMC 1988 515 Jimmy solidum used, 45kl cyl., 2"mpd, smolm call: \$488.110-652-7550	Vehicles	GMC 1988 515 Jimmy solidum used, 45kl cyl., 2"mpd, smolm call: \$488.110-652-7550	Vehicles	FORD 1972 Ranchero all new parts \$1700 \$4800/95-550-8633
MASTERCRAFT 2001 X9 Bluer Loaded, 200 hrs. 925-945-7560	'66 COMFORT 18' fully equipped motor home \$45000/950-925-634-0835	Vans	CHEVROLET 1995 3500, 454 cu.in. 1000 mi. 010K; 1994 suzu NRP Diesel 1. Quality used bd w/rack 1997 \$1000/925-788-6211	FORD	Herzogs Car Sales	HONDA 2004 CRV EX like new, only 5600 mi.	MERCEDES 2002 ML320 4 cyl. paint, 55k, all call: \$26,995/510-652-7550	Vehicles	FORD 1969 Bronco 4x4, great paint, 55k, all call: great! perfect Client!	FORD 1972 Ranchero all new parts \$1700 \$4800/95-550-8633	

2003, 28hrs, like new! 1998, 28hrs, Wabaco interior, gated, trrr. \$19,995. SOLD	2 AC, storm windows 1998, 28hrs, 35555 \$19,995. SOLD	HOLDI exp 4/29/2005 2001 TOYOTA TAILOR (925) 933-7444	Ford Listings (510) 726-9880	HONDA 1998 CRV EX 54kmi, 4wd, CD, orig owner, Gar'd. \$10.4Kob Call 925-933-7444 exp 4/29/2005	MERCEDES 2001 ML320 Bk. 47K. All options. \$24,995. Call 925-933-7444	FORD 1969 Mustang conv, 28hrs, 35555 \$19,995. SOLD
2000 Mastercraft, Pro Star 190, 320 hrs., ster- eo sys., heater, Bimini top, dual axle trrr. \$22,800. 925-933-7249	1998 WESTHAM Excello 32, mint. \$15,500. 925-462-0715	CHEVROLET 2001 Astro Caravan, 28hrs, V6 Clean \$8,950 8147842 Call 925-933-7444 exp 4/29/2005	TOYOTA 1996 4 Runner AT, AC, PS, Super CD, 190213 Diagonl exp 4/29/2005	TOYOTA 2001 ML320 Designo, 52k, all opts \$22,995. Call 925-933-7444	FORD 1967 Mustang \$14,100 925-706-264	FORD '65 Mustang, Proj \$2500 960 925-760
	2000 FORD 28hrs fully equipped with alder. \$11,500 925-925-0859	CHEVROLET 2001 Astro Caravan, 28hrs, V6 Clean \$8,950 8147842 Call 925-933-7444 exp 4/29/2005	TOYOTA 1996 4 Runner AT, AC, PS, Super CD, 190213 Diagonl exp 4/29/2005	MERCEDES 2001 ML320 Sivir, 52K, CD, 222,995		

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<p>TRANSMISSION 1989 SANGER, 21, runs superb New Pro/ new 1990 100000 obo. 510-508-5487</p> <p>SEA RAY 77' weekend 1950 duPont Volvo, fresh water cooling, galvanized trir. 520-3636</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p>	<p>1988 LATON 26' rear bed, slips, 4' new cabin, 1988 100000 obo. 523-9354</p> <p>DODGE 2001 Caravan sport, 3.3L, 4AC, AC, new tires, 100000 obo. 523-9354</p> <p>1993 SALEM 26' AC, self- contained trir. AC, win- ding \$2100 925-672-7499</p> <p>DODGE 2000 Caravan AT, 4AC, 4 cyl., runs grt. 100000 925-672-7499</p>	<p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p> <p>CHEVROLET 1979 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 engine, chrome wheel, new tires, 100000 no smog, \$2,000. Call 726-687-758</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p>	<p>AC 1972 C1500, step body, 100000, 100000 \$6500 925-683-2260</p> <p>CHEVROLET 1979 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 engine, chrome wheel, new tires, 100000 no smog, \$2,000. Call 726-687-758</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p>	<p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p>	<p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p> <p>1987 44' by 10 ton AC 328-5374</p>
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<p>1986 Ford unasssembled long wheel base rhd Eng. 255.513.1104</p> <p>\$32,900, 209-545-4559</p>	<p>Dodge 1996 Gr Caravan long wheel base \$4000, 925-736-8083</p>	<p>For Additional Dodge Listings</p>	<p>1987 loaded At. \$7500 Mileage 92537 (925) 933-7440</p>	<p>1987 loaded At. \$7500 Mileage 92537 (925) 933-7440</p>	<p>1987 loaded At. \$7500 Mileage 92537 (925) 933-7440</p>	<p>1987 loaded At. \$7500 Mileage 92537 (925) 933-7440</p>
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<p>Call 978-5960 1999 Honda Civic drive, GRT gas mileage. 1999 Honda Civic awning, tow pkg. 916- 351-5351, sun roof com- pact, \$320,000 firm.</p>	<p>HARLEY 1998 FXD, exc cond, extras, 10K mi. 925-785-9955</p> <p>HARLEY 1997 Soft Cut xlcd, cond, lots com- pact, \$234,750</p>	<p>HARLEY 1998 FXD, exc cond, extras, 10K mi. 925-785-9955</p> <p>PLYMOUTH 2000 Grd Voyager SE, exc cond, 19K mi, \$234,750</p> <p>PLYMOUTH 1998 Grd Voyager SE, new trans, 11K mi, \$234,750</p>	<p>FORD 2002 F150 XL Super-Cab, 8K, 35K mi. 925-785-9955</p>	<p>FORD 1998 Explorer 4.0L, 10K mi, 35K mi. 925-785-9955</p> <p>FORD 1998 Explorer 4.0L, 10K mi, 35K mi. 925-785-9955</p>	<p>BMW 2000 X5 4.4 i 4000 cc, 32-62 mpg, 127 5Kb, 283-2629.</p> <p>CADILLAC 2000 Escalade V8, AWD, AT 4.9L, 10K mi, 35K mi. 925-785-9955</p>	<p>BMW 2000 X5 4.4 i 4000 cc, 32-62 mpg, 127 5Kb, 283-2629.</p> <p>CADILLAC 2000 Escalade V8, AWD, AT 4.9L, 10K mi, 35K mi. 925-785-9955</p>	<p>BMW 2000 X5 4.4 i 4000 cc, 32-62 mpg, 127 5Kb, 283-2629.</p> <p>CADILLAC 2000 Escalade V8, AWD, AT 4.9L, 10K mi, 35K mi. 925-785-9955</p>
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Shopping Plus

Friday, April 29, 2005

Look inside for local advertising circulars every Friday

Barbecuing and grilling the

style of cooking?
Cooking directly over the heat of charcoal, flames or coals, for short periods of time at high temperatures, is a common method of cooking. Barbecuing is a method of cooking that uses indirect heat and lower temperatures in the 225-degree to 275-degree Fahrenheit range.

Which is better for charcoal or gas?

Of the 68 percent of people who own gas grills, there are many facts that determine the choice of the two. Gas grills cook food faster, have a slightly lighter flavor in the product, unlike charcoal, which has no taste. But gas grills have push-button lighting and a consistent heat source, while charcoal can burn for as long as 20 hours.

Gas grills are messier, the heat is less predictable and they need to be cleaned. But charcoal grills get hotter, burning wood helps to cook food, and charcoal gives you a "thrill of lighting and playing with fire," according to www.barbecue.com.

Who invented the charcoal grill?

W. P. Stafford developed and patented a process in which wood scrap was turned into charcoal, pulverized, and compressed into little briquettes. Automaker Henry Ford was the first to use the process to turn the wood scraps left over from his car-making into a briquette. In 1901, at the site one of his relatives, Stafford had brokered. The Ford Motor Co. was later renamed Ford Charcoal in his honor.

How much do grills cost?

Grills cost as little as \$10, but high-end stainless steel gas models can go as high as \$10,000. The cost of charcoal grills runs in the \$50 to \$300 range, while basic gas grills run from \$20 to \$300. Simple vertical charcoal units fall in the \$40-to-\$100 range, while horizontal units range from \$100 and run into the thousands of dollars.

What kind of tools do I need for grilling?

Long-handled tongs and spatulas are a must for flipping food easily. Long-handled forks should only be used for larger food. Each time you use a fork, you lose flavorful juices. Grill baskets hold vegetables and meats of meat, while hinged fish baskets keep fish from falling apart. A meat thermometer is essential for checking food's internal temperature.

Grilling tools include tongs, spatulas, and a meat thermometer. These tools are essential for grilling.

Is it necessary to preheat a grill?

According to Gordon Grant, a manager at Grapevine, Texas, Barbeques, preheating is essential. Gas grills, especially gas models, have grates that have surface coatings that require no seasoning. A few charcoal models still have grates that have to be seasoned to create a natural, non-stick surface and prevent rust. Some grills have a preheating time of 20 to 30 minutes. The first time any grill is used to burn out residue that may have accumulated during manufacturing and shipping. This also tempers the unit.

How do I know coals are ready for use?

When lighting, it should take about 20 minutes for the coals to be covered in a light glow. You can check the temperature of the coals by how long you can hold your hand about 6 inches above the coals before



Fiery facts, tips and trivia about the backyard art

pulling it away. Measure the seconds by counting, "one thousand one, one thousand two," etc.

HOT: About two seconds indicates a temperature of 365 degrees

MEDIUM HOT: Three seconds, 350 to 375 degrees

MEDIUM: Four seconds, 300 to 350 degrees

LOW: Five seconds, 200 to 300 degrees

8. How can I keep food from sticking to the grill?

Clean the grill thoroughly after each use, according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Brush or spray the grill with vegetable oil prior to cooking.

Preheat grills before using.

Use a marinade or a light coating of vegetable oil on food before grilling.

Be patient. Wait a few minutes after placing the food on the grill and let the heat sear the food before turning.

9. How does marinating help when I cook?

Marinades add flavor and tenderize. They can include vinegar, wine or citrus juice, olive oil, and herbs and spices. The acidic ingredients help soften the tissues of the meat. A few tips:

The more tender the meat, the

less time soaking in the marinade. Soak tender cuts two hours or less, tougher cuts for several hours or overnight.

Always marinate meat in the refrigerator. Never use containers that will react to the acidic ingredients, such as metal bowls. Use glass or plastic bowls or plastic bags you can seal.

Meat that has been marinated for a long period of time will take less time to cook. Twelve hours of marinating can reduce cooking time by 30 percent to 35 percent.

10. Can I use the marinade after I cook the meat?

The only way marinade can be reused is to boil it thoroughly to kill any bacteria transferred from the raw meat. Even then, it should only be used as a basting liquid or as sauce for the meat.

11. What about using dry rubs on the meat I grill?

These dry mixes of herbs and spices are rubbed into the raw meat to flavor the meat. The prepared meat is usually placed in a container in the refrigerator overnight before grilling.

Ingredients that can be used for a dry rub include black pepper, cumin, chili powder, crushed red pepper, celery seed, garlic powder or fresh crushed or minced garlic, salt, seasoned pepper and brown sugar. Use sugar sparingly as it melts and

burns during cooking. Not only can burnt sugar provide unpleasant results in taste, it is very difficult to clean off the grill once it cools and hardens.

12. What are the easiest fish to cook on the grill?

Choose fish that have a firm, meaty texture that will not fall apart easily when moved or turned. The best choices include tuna, salmon, swordfish, mahi mahi, halibut, whitefish, redfish, red snapper and monkfish. Shellfish, such as shrimp, work well, too.

13. What are the most popular foods to grill?

Hamburgers rule the grill, followed by steaks, chicken parts, hot dogs and bratwurst.

14. When should I flip a burger?

A 1/4-inch-thick burger should take eight to 10 minutes to cook, so be patient and wait for a few minutes before you flip. About halfway through the cooking time, juices will boil up through the burger to the surface. Take a look at the face-down side of the patty. If it is dark brown ... flip it!

15. How do you hand test a steak for doneness?

There are various hand tests that direct you to poke the steak and compare its firmness at various stages of doneness to that of your hand. In one, you make a

tight fist and push down on the fleshy part between the index finger and thumb. This firmness indicates a steak that is probably well done. The firmness when you relax your grip about halfway indicates medium; total relaxation indicates rare. In another, you poke the fleshy part of the palm beside the thumb while holding the tips of your index finger and thumb together. The firmness here represents rare to medium-rare. As you touch each finger to the thumb in succession, working your way down to the pinky, the firmness will indicate medium, medium-well and well done. The only reliable way to test doneness is with a meat thermometer.



16. How do I know when food is fully cooked?

Using a meat thermometer to check internal temperatures will ensure you have cooked your food safely and to a certain level of doneness.

- Whole chicken, turkey: 180 degrees
- Chicken thighs and wings: 180 degrees
- Chicken breasts: 170 degrees
- Pork, well done: 170 degrees
- Pork, medium: 160 degrees
- Beef, well done: 170 degrees
- Beef, ground: 160+ degrees
- Beef, medium: 160 degrees
- Beef, medium rare: 145 degrees
- Beef, rare: 140 degrees
- Fish, turns from translucent to opaque: 145 degrees

17. Is there a cancer risk involved with grilling?

The grilling process generates two organic chemicals that do increase the risk of breast, colon, stomach and prostate cancer. When fat from food drips into the fire and burns, the smoke carries polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) onto the food.

Heterocyclic amines (HCAs) can also form on meat, poultry or fish when grilled. You can lower the risk by pre-cooking meats and shortening the cooking time on the grill, cooking low-fat meats and trimming off as much fat as possible, not letting flames touch and char the meat, and cutting off charred portions before serving.

18. What are the occasions when most people fire up the grill?

A survey sponsored by grill manufacturer Weber-Stephen found that the most popular grilling occasions (in order of popularity) are Independence Day, Labor Day, Memorial Day, birthdays, Father's Day, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving Day, graduations and Christmas.

19. What is the largest cookout on record?

The Guinness world record for largest barbecue was a one-day event attended by 44,158 people at a race-course in Sydney, Australia, in 1993. What went on the grill? More than 300,000 sausages, 100,000 steaks and 50,000 chicken burgers.

20. What are some tips for safe grilling?

The Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association lists nearly three pages of safety tips for outdoor grilling at www.hpb.org/consumer/bbq/safety.shtml.

A few of them are:

Barbecue grills are designed for outdoor use only. Never barbecue in your trailer, tent, house, garage or any enclosed area.

Use long-handled barbecue utensils to avoid burns and splatters.

Never use gasoline or kerosene or other highly volatile fluids as a starter. They can explode.

— Fort Worth Star-Telegram

SOURCES: WWW.ALLRECIPES.COM WWW.AMMAGAZINE.COM WWW.FSIS.USDA.GOV WWW.HPBA.ORG WWW.JSONLINE.COM WWW.PARENTS-PLACE.COM WWW.HOTV.COM WWW.TEXASCOOKING.COM WWW.WEBER.COM WWW.KINGSFORD.COM WWW.FDA.GOV WWW.CBOA.COM WWW.DUCANE.COM WWW.RELUCTANTGOURMET.COM WWW.BARBECUEBIBLE.COM WWW.GUINNESSWORLDRECORDS.COM WWW.WISH-BONE.COM WWW.HORMEL.COM WWW.OZNET.KSU.EDU WWW.TENNESSEAN.COM WWW.TXBBQ.ORG WWW.WEGMANS.COM WWW.FOODSAFETY.COM WWW.BBOU.NET "THE GRILLING BOOK," "ALL FIRED UP!," "GREAT GRILLING," "THE GREAT AMERICAN BARBECUE & GRILLING MANUAL," "THRILL OF THE GRILL," KRT

FIRE IT UP

Great grilling get-togethers

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

Celebrate summer any night of the week by inviting friends and family over for a casual patio party. Treat your guests to a delightful dinner that's easy to prepare and filled with big, bold flavors straight from the grill.

Mixing great grilled food and good company is a foolproof recipe for outdoor entertaining.

GRILLED CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE KABOBS

1/4 cup olive oil
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
2 teaspoons McCormick Grill Mates Montreal Chicken Seasoning
1/2 teaspoon McCormick Italian Seasoning
1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast
Assorted vegetable pieces
Combine first 4 ingredients in large, self-closing plastic bag or glass bowl. Cut chicken into 1 1/2-inch cubes; add to bag or bowl.
Marinate in refrigerator 30 minutes or longer for extra flavor. Remove chicken from marinade; discard marinade. Spear chicken and vegetables on metal skewers.
Lightly sprinkle chicken and vegetables with additional chicken seasoning. Grill kabobs 10 to 15

minutes, turning frequently.
Makes 6 servings

SUNSET PATIO PASTA

4 to 5 cups assorted vegetable pieces (such as zucchini, yellow squash, bell pepper, mushrooms and onion)
4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
3 teaspoons McCormick Grill Mates Montreal Chicken Seasoning, divided
2 tablespoons lemon juice
8 ounces penne pasta, cooked and drained
Toss vegetables with 1 tablespoon oil and 1 teaspoon chicken seasoning. Place vegetables in grill basket or on skewers; grill until tender, about 8 to 10 minutes, turning frequently.
In small bowl, combine lemon juice, 3 tablespoons oil and 2 teaspoons chicken seasoning. In large bowl, toss lemon juice mixture with cooked pasta and vegetables.
Serve warm or chilled.
Makes 6 servings

ZESTY RED WINE AND HERB STEAK

1 tablespoon McCormick Grill Mates Montreal Steak Seasoning
1 tablespoon McCormick Italian Seasoning

1 teaspoon McCormick Garlic Powder
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
1/4 cup olive oil
1/4 cup red wine
2 pounds top round steak, 1-inch thick

Combine first 6 ingredients in large, self-closing bag or glass bowl. Add steak and marinate in refrigerator 30 minutes or longer for extra flavor.

Remove steak from marinade; discard marinade. Grill or broil steak 8 to 12 minutes per side or to desired doneness. Slice on diagonal and serve.

Makes 6 servings
For more recipes visit www.mccormick.com
All materials courtesy of McCormick & Company, Inc.

MIXING GREAT GRILLED

food and good company is a foolproof recipe for outdoor entertaining.

Top photo: Zesty Red Wine and Herb Steak with Sunset Patio Pasta.

Bottom photo: Grilled Chicken and Vegetable Kabobs.



FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

Large appliances dare to wear bold colors again

BY STACY DOWNS

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — When it comes to big appliances, are consumers seeing colorful flashbacks from the 1960s and 1970s?

Kind of. Although avocado green and harvest gold haven't returned to ranges and refrigerators, hues bolder than white, bisque, graphite, black and stainless steel are making their way back into the kitchen and laundry room.

This year Sears introduced blue and burnt orange Kenmore washers and dryers and a light glacier KitchenAid refrigerator exclusive to the department store chain. Recently Big Chill, based in Boulder, Colo., launched its colorful line of refrigerators featuring the chrome, curves and colors of the 1950s. Pink, turquoise, butter yellow and jadeite green are part of the mix.

Gail and Kevin Vick of Lawrence, Kan., went for color in a big way, recently buying a 7-foot-tall red refrigerator. When Gail Vick told her circle of friends about the purchase, they had mixed reactions.

"How awesome!" longtime pal Cindy Dehoff remembers saying. "I'm a red freak, so I thought it was cool. A few thought 'Are you crazy?' or 'Hmmm... well I don't know that I would do that.'"

The Vicks were going for appliances that fit in with the warm red and gold tones in their kitchen, open to the family room. They considered the options. White and bisque, too light. Black, too dark. Stainless steel, too cold-looking and hard to keep clean. Cabinet fronts, too much wood. The bottom line: They were tired of the usual choices.

Gail Vick searched online and found that Viking offered a lot of colors. Although she chose a gray

dishwasher and double ovens, she decided on a red refrigerator. Not fire engine red, but more of a burgundy.

At first Vick second-guessed her purchase, because getting a colorful big appliance was an unusual move that harked back to her parents' generation. On the day the refrigerator was delivered last September, sunlight hit it, creating a purplish glow. She remembers thinking "Oh my gosh, did you bring the wrong one?"

But it didn't take Vick long to love the refrigerator, now the focal point of her kitchen. Red is one of her favorite colors, and she thinks the shade makes the room cozier. Even the most skeptical friends were impressed by the tall appliance at her Christmas party, complimenting the color. "I don't think I'll ever get sick of it," Vick says. "I would buy it again in a heartbeat."

Meanwhile, other appliance companies are becoming more daring with color. Dacor is adding pale green and blue double wall ovens to its line of stainless steel this year. The British company Aga offers electric and gas ranges in 15 colors, including two shades of purple: eggplant and lavender.

"People are now feeling emboldened to use color in a bigger way," says Brian Maynard, a spokesman for KitchenAid, which has had success with its colorful countertop mixers, introducing 10 new hues this year. "Television shows and magazines have given people permission to make their homes more personal. Color does that."

Red is the top selling Big Chill refrigerator color, says Orion Creamer, product designer and co-owner of the Colorado company. Yellow and light blue are close seconds. So far most customers looking to add retro chic to their kitchens are from Cali-

fornia and New York.

Still, the general population seems ready for an alternative to neutral large appliance colors, says Creamer, based on sales that have steadily grown since the colorful refrigerators were introduced in the summer. People have started requesting colors the company doesn't currently offer. "But not avocado or harvest gold," he says. "We won't be coming out with these anytime soon."

Other manufacturers are waiting to see how Sears fares with its Kenmore washers and dryers before introducing bolder colors to their appliance lineups. Even Sears is cautious about adding colorful dishwashers and oven ranges because "the kitchen is a public space," says spokesman Larry Costello.

Small colorful appliances are successful because they're mainly quick pick-me-ups, says Vicki Matranga, designer programs coordinator for the International Housewares Association. "People buy blenders as sculpture, but their decor doesn't rely on that color," she says. "People invest in large appliances because they're going to last a long time, so they're going to go with what's safe. They'll be more daring if they have a disposable income."

But Sears sees possibilities for the laundry room — a behind-closed-doors yet rising-star area in the home. Research showed that 70 percent of the people Sears surveyed were tired of the sterile, white laundry room, which has moved up from the basement and into the master bedroom suite in new houses.

Kenmore, like other appliance companies, chose the hues it wanted based on the expertise of color forecasters such as Pantone and the car industry. Champagne — beige amplified with metallic

chips like paint jobs on luxury sedans — accounts for 47 percent of the new line's washer and dryer sales. Pacific blue makes up 45 percent and the burnt orange Sedona, 8 percent. More than 10,000 units have been sold so far.

"The response far exceeds our expectations," Costello says. "We're looking forward to what the next palette of colors will be."

For now, colorful large appliances are definitely a niche market: Neutrals are still the norm in stores, and adding color sometimes commands a price tag of \$100 to \$200 more because appliances must be put through a special paint process. Although Viking offers more than 10 vivid hues, they account for only 1 percent to 2 percent of the company's appliance sales, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Industry experts say adding color is simply a marketing tool, attracting attention and getting people to replace their appliances more often as they tire of once-trendy shades. "The stainless steel market is still growing," says Diane Ritchey, editor of Home Appliance Magazine, a consumer publication. "In Europe they've been hip to buying blue stoves and other colorful appliances for years. But the biggest segment of the U.S. population is comfortable with what's out there already."

Kitchen designers say most people redoing their kitchens are going with stainless appliances or covering them with cabinet fronts. Most are shy to use colorful big stoves and refrigerators, fearing they will soon be dated. In the 1950s the popular colors were turquoise and pink. In the 1960s and 1970s, brown, avocado and gold were all the rage. The 1980s and early 1990s saw cobalt blue, wine and hunter green in limited doses.

"Color is a trend that's come and gone several times in the appliance industry, but rarely do the palettes of those eras come back," says Denise Manu, regional manager of Roth Concept Center, a kitchen design store in Lenexa, Kan. "I bet people who bought a hunter green range in 1992 don't love it now."

But Elaine Akin of Lee's Summit, Mo., bought a hunter green cast-iron Aga range this year, choosing the color because she considers it timeless. "A colorful stove makes a kitchen more interesting," she says. "You spend so much time in there that you want it to be pretty and uplifting. This is a relaxing color to me."

Chris Akin was surprised his mother — the same person who has white walls in most of the house — chose a green stove. "It's a braver and bolder move than I would have expected," he says. "But this stove isn't bright or jarring."

As a home builder, Chris Akin sees homeowners making choices based on how they would influence the resale value. He has seen people agonize "forever" on paint colors because there are so many choices, and he thinks that's partly why it might be difficult for people to pick out colorful large appliances.

At first Elaine Akin wanted a bright red or blue stove. She even appreciated the dark eggplant model because she thought it looked rich like the color of wine and would go well with slate-tile flooring. But then she thought she'd soon tire of the purplish hue. Kitchen designer Cherrie Brown of Kitchens by Kleweno in Kansas City encouraged Akin to pick cabinets and countertops first, then choose a stove color. In the end, green won out.

"I think people are programmed

to like certain colors," he says, waving her arm toward green sofas in the living room he had these 15 years. She never changes.

Akin thinks colorful appliances stand a shot, like they haven't in the past, there aren't low-price options besides more appliances, so they have to grow. A rainbow of choices is available in large appliances only.

"Muddy colors" such as brown and brown suffered from she theorizes, because practically the only color choice was white, she then I painted it white before put in the basement."

Hues

Will you love your color choice this long?

Dishwasher: 9 years
Dryer, electric or gas: 13 years
Range, electric: 13 years
Range, gas: 15 years
Refrigerator: 13 years
Washer: 11 years
Source: Appliance Watch 2004 report on the appliance frame consumers keep

Give your fridge a facelift

Paint it. Paint stores and appliance stores offer a variety of 12-ounce spray cans for \$5. Avoid painting stoves or color from heat exposure on cardboard. Follow manufacturers' instructions.

Panel it. Sets that use washers and refrigerators are available in more than 200 colors for appliances made back to the 1940s at Frigo based in Brewerton, N.Y. Panels and trim cost between \$400 and \$600; refrigerator cost between \$200 and \$300. www.frigodesign.com 836-8746.

Gel inks gelling with checkmakers, consumers

NAPS

Though not all consumers are aware of it, the media has recently reported on the risk of stolen checks that can be "washed" and altered. According to the reports, resourceful crooks have been known to steal checks from mailboxes, cover the signatures with cellophane tape, and then wash them in acetone to remove the payee information and dollar amount. The signature remains intact after the tape is removed.

These "washed" checks are then dried and ironed, and rewritten for dollar amounts that are sure to clean

out even the most abundant of bank accounts. While most oil-based and water-based inks have been shown to lift up and wash away when immersed in the acetone or acetone and water mixture (nail polish remover is commonly used), gel-based inks, the kind used in some pens, have been shown to resist the "washing" process and remain embedded in the check.

A spokesman for Pentel said that the company takes these concerns very seriously and is doing everything possible to address the problem. "We have done extensive tests

in the past, even before check washing was a mainstream concern, and

we will continue to test our products to make sure they exceed the stan-

dards of quality that consumers expect from Pentel. This includes making sure that our products are safe to use on checks and important documents that must withstand the test of time."

Experts report that the inks in gel

pens, such as Pentel's EnerGel in black ink or the blue EnerGel Hybrid Gel, Sunburst and Gel pens, offer the best defense against check fraud. To learn more about Pentel, visit www.pentel.com.

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CONTRA COSTA TIMES

Raise a toast to marital bliss, and its price tag

**USA GUTIERREZ AND
DUCKETT OSTERHELDT**
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Haydee Gutierrez and her fiancé, Chris Man-
gione, are planning their wedding with
a twist in hand.

"Something new" prospective bride Haydee Gutierrez, 25, has set a budget for her wedding at The Clubhouse in Baltimore, and she's determined not to overspend.

They got engaged in December, but they decided they wanted a wedding that was elegant and in-
spired by the city of Baltimore, says Leon, 26, who lives in
Park, Kan. "Something new and different," he says.

But when they decided that it was reasonable, it is, in fact, the cost of a typical wedding, which is now more
than \$20,000.

At almost 50 percent more than they cost in 1990 according to the latest estimates from the industry.

Weddings, it seems, are in vogue, and a savvy in-
dustry that throws seminars for
wedding planners and wedding plan-
ners to "sell the bride" is
thriving.

TV shows such as "Who's
the Bride?" and "The Bachelor" are
popular, and movies like "Bride and
Prejudice," to
celebrity wedding cov-
ers, and Internet bridal sites,
where you turn, someone is
to do it — or at least telling
you to do it.

The bride-to-be has her
at least 77 bridal maga-
zines, more than
any other magazine, according to the
1999, according to the
Directory of Magazines.

Of them will tell the happy
couple to save money and
the father of the bride has
about mortgaging the house
for his daughter's wedding.
In fact, that's no laughing
matter.

World War I, the aver-
aging cost one-third of the
U.S. median family income,
says Fields in Boulder, Colo.
His wife, Denise, have be-
come well-known watchdogs of

the wedding industry.
By the 1960s, it had risen to
half. Today, wedding costs are
closing in on 60 percent of annual
family incomes, says Fields, co-
author of the popular Bridal Bargains
series of books.

It's all too much for some couples.
The commercialization of
weddings has caused inflation and
people are forgetting what the cere-
mony is about, says Pete Tarantino,
a 35-year-old Kansas City
loan officer who just got married to
Sassari, 31.

"It's important to stay focused
on spending a lifetime together
and not just a day," Tarantino says
of the planning process. "It's
about your relationship with your
spouse and your relationship with
God. Stay away from the maga-
zines and the TV shows, and be
involved with each other."

"The focus has moved to the
bride's dress, the size of the ring
or how many people are at the re-
ception, when it needs to be the
exact opposite," he says.

How did we get to this point?
The idea of the big, fancy wedding
is seductive.

Cele Otnes, an associate profes-
sor of business administration at the
University of Illinois Urbana-Cham-
paign, spent four years researching
weddings for a book she co-wrote
with colleague Elizabeth Pleck called
"Cinderella Dreams: The Allure of the
Lavish Wedding."

One reason the lavish wedding
has taken off to near recession-
proof costs, they argue, is that "it
allows people to experience magic
in their lives," Otnes says.

It's guilt-free magic, she says,
because people tell themselves
this is a once-in-a-lifetime event,
though that's not necessarily true
anymore. Half of all new unions
involve at least one partner who
is marrying for a second time. And
there's no more reluctance in
spending big on a second wedding
either. Encore weddings in the
United States average about
\$12,000, Otnes says.

Weddings also let people "re-
member themselves as close as
they'll ever get to being celebri-
ties," Otnes says. "People are
young, and probably the most at-

tractive they'll ever be, given the
amount of pampering that's gone
into one day.

"When you think about the
powerful task that it accomplishes,
it's hard to beat. You get a lot of
sociological and emotional bang
for the buck, even at \$26,000."

Romance is a huge driver of
consumerism, Otnes says, quot-
ing one of her sources who sug-
gested that the lavish wedding al-
lows us to express our romance
with consumption and our con-
sumption of romance.

So is it any wonder that the
fairytale wedding has become the
picture of a romantic marriage?
"A fantasy is much more ap-
pealing than reality," says Susan
Shapiro Barash, professor of gen-
der studies at Marymount Man-
hattan College and author of "The
New Wife: The Evolving Role of
the American Wife."

The glamorized wedding epi-
tomizes the hope for happily ever
after, and with that idea comes the
willingness to create it at any cost,
says Barash.

And it's important to today's
young bride that her marriage is
enduring. These are the daughters
of baby-boomer women, many of
whom are divorced or have never
been married but often have careers
and educations, she says.

But when these brides look at
their grandmothers, they see
women who have been married for
50 years to the same man. They
want that kind of marriage. They
want to live "happily ever after."

"The 21st-century wife is deter-
mined to not have a stressful mar-
riage, but to have a very romantic,
exciting marriage," Barash says.

Sarah Burkindine of Prairie Vil-
lage, Kan., has seen the fantasy
of it all while planning her Nov. 5
wedding to Brian Roberts, 32.
"Weddings are becoming more
of an event," says Burkindine, 28.
"I definitely think people are
spending more these days on
weddings than they did years ago."
My aunt got married in the
early to mid-'80s and my grand-
mother paid for it by herself, and
that wedding was much less than
\$10,000," says Burkindine. "My
sister recently got married and

had a wedding similar to that one,
but 20 years later the cost more
than doubled."

That is closer to the cost of the
average \$20,000 Kansas City wed-
ding, according to local bridal
publications.

"Weddings are more extrava-
gant," Burkindine says. "It's not
your basic dress, tux and 50
guests. People get wrapped up in
the little details, like favors, chair
covers, huge halls, big bands and
outstanding florists. But there's a
supply and demand, and people
will pay for it."

It would be hard for any one
person to pay for all of the cost
themselves, Burkindine says. Her
budget is made up of a large con-
tribution from her parents, some
from his parents and a few thou-
sand from the couple.

That's not necessarily a new
phenomenon, but this pitching in
to cover the cost of a wedding is
happening more often these days,
wedding experts say.

"It's just becoming more usual
for the bride's family to foot the bill,"
says Kara Coridan, executive editor
of Modern Bride and Elegant Bride
magazines in New York. "It happens,
but it's not the norm anymore. It's al-
most seen as old-fashioned."

"We know a lot of couples
bringing in a nice income, and

they feel funny turning around ask-
ing their parents to pay for it."

Even arbiters of etiquette such
as Peggy Post contend that it's
not unusual for families to pool
their money to get their sons and
daughters hitched. Today, ap-
proximately 25 percent of wed-
dings are paid for solely by the
bride's parents, according to wed-
ding industry estimates.

"I think that's a reflection of that
\$20,000 figure," says Alan Fields.
"It's just a lot of money."

The "Cinderella Dreams" au-
thors found little backlash to the
lavish wedding during their four
years of research. But they didn't
meet Kansas City couple Jamillah
Duckett and her husband, Quentin.
They steered well away from the
marketing and hype when it came
to their 2004 wedding.

"My wedding was simple, inte-
mate, elegant and romantic," says
Duckett, 29, whose wedding cost
about \$2,500. "I only had my sister
stand up with me, and his brother
stood up with him, and I would not
change a thing about my day."

Duckett thinks people have for-
gotten what a wedding is sup-
posed to be.

"Spending your whole life sav-
ings makes for a dream wedding,
but it's not the (blueprint) for a
healthy marriage," Duckett says.
"One of the main things for my
husband and I is that we had to re-
member that this was our day, be-
cause everyone is going to give you
their opinion of how they think your

wedding should go and that, in it-
self, can be stressful," Duckett says.
"Just remember the purpose
and you'll be fine."

Money-saving tips

■ Don't be afraid to make
things yourself. Invitations, guest
books and favors offer a lot of do-
it-yourself options.

■ Look for bundles. Many
times if you get your cake, food
and flowers from the same place,
you get a discount.

■ Invest in a wedding planning
book and guide to keep you or-
ganized and informed. This will
help remind you of all those "in-
cidental" fees that take some
brides-to-be by surprise, such as
the limo from the church to the re-
ception site.

■ Opt for Friday nights. Friday
night weddings are cheaper than
Saturdays.

■ Have a firm grip on expenses
that are important to both of you.
This will avoid overspending on
and upgrading items that don't
truly matter.

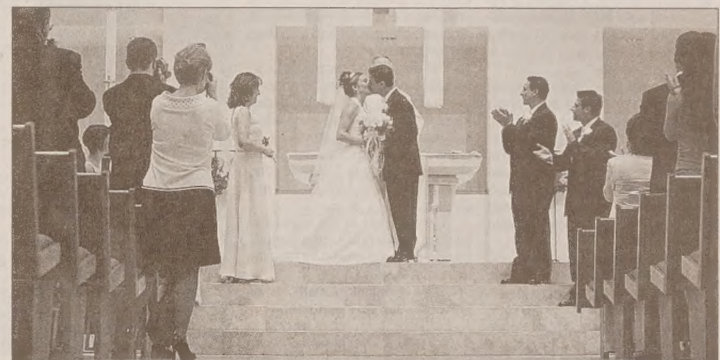
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■ www.theknot.com: Arguably
the most popular wedding site.

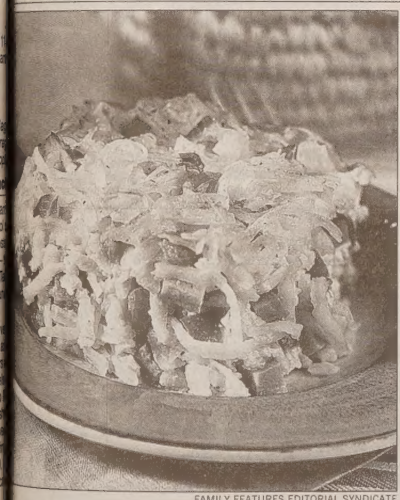
■ www.weddingchannel.com:
Another popular planning site.

■ www.bridalbargainsbook.com:
Wedding industry "watchdogs" Alan
and Denise Fields give the scoop on
saving big bucks on the big day.

Their new passport is a worksheet
for money-saving brides.



THE NEWLY WEDDED Pete and Susan Tarantino kiss at the St. Therese Catholic Church in Parkville, Mo.



FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

Hash Brown Casserole — the dish that saved the day

FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE

As spring turns into summer,
end-of-school awards dinners, gradu-
ations, family reunions, grad
showers and Father's Day all offer
special times for family and friends
to gather. When company's com-
ing, we all need one great dish that
will fit any occasion.

How about satisfying and deli-
cious Hash Brown Casserole? Home
cooks across the country
have given this dish a 5-star rat-
ing for its crowd-pleasing flavor
and ease of preparation.

**THE HASH BROWN
CASSEROLE** is great for
breakfast, brunch, lunch,
potluck suppers or casual
dinners. Just stir it together
and pop it in the oven.

This versatile casserole is great
for breakfast, brunch, lunch,
potluck suppers or casual dinners.
Just stir it together and pop it in
the oven.

Even with lower fat ingredients,
Hash Brown Casserole still has a
rich, creamy and hearty flavor. The
reason? Evaporated milk. This
pantry staple works a special
magic in recipes. Made by gently
heating milk to remove about half
the water, canned evaporated milk
has more richness than refriger-
ated milk.

You can substitute regular, low
fat or fat free evaporated milk in
recipes that call for adding refrig-
erated milk for richness with twice
the calcium and protein. You can
also use evaporated milk in place
of half-and-half for a creamy taste
without all of the fat.

For more five-star recipes and

tips, check out VeryBestBaking.com.

HASH BROWN CASSEROLE
3 cartons (4 ounces each) cho-
lesterol-free egg product or 6 large
eggs, well beaten

1 can (12 fluid ounces) Nestlé
Carnation Evaporated Fat Free
Milk, or Nestlé Carnation Evapo-
rated Milk

1 teaspoon salt (optional)

1/2 teaspoon ground black
pepper

1 package (30 ounces) frozen
shredded hash brown potatoes

2 cups (8 ounces) shredded
cheddar cheese

1 medium onion, chopped

1 small green bell pepper,
chopped

10 slices turkey bacon, cooked
and chopped, or 1 cup diced ham

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Grease 13 x 9-inch baking dish.

Combine egg product, evapo-
rated milk, salt and black pepper
in large bowl. Add potatoes,
cheese, onion, bell pepper and
turkey bacon; mix well. Pour mix-
ture into prepared baking dish.

Bake 60 to 65 minutes or until
set.

Makes 12 servings.

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Gowns get splashes of color and individuality

BY JACKIE WHITE
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — When chef Kristi Smith started to plan her midsummer wedding, she had a definite vision of her gown. She didn't want "a real full skirt. I was thinking of something like my grandmother wore to be married in the 1920s," she says.

She went shopping and made an important discovery. The options were more varied than she could imagine. She shifted her thinking by 90 degrees and fell for a completely different style.

"It is very elegant," she says of the strapless dress with lace body and an A-line skirt she settled on at Kansas City's Gown Gallery.

Bridal gowns can be sexy, shapely, simple, romantic, sophisticated and wildly glamorous. The trends are fueled by the shifting winds of the culture and fashion.

In a somewhat recent development, brides are eschewing the cookie-cutter stereotypical wedding gown and one-size-fits-all wedding. "I do believe girls today do not want to look like their friends," says Atlanta-based bridal designer Anne Barge, who often offers color and print trim to set her gowns apart. "The bride wants to make the gown her own."

Leawood, Kan., bridal consultant Michael Nolte says 80 percent of the gowns he sells in his store are personalized in some way. "It may be as simple as raising a neckline or changing a sleeve."

Brides also may personalize their gowns with color. Think gold, apple red or champagne in the trim, lining, embroidery or shoes. They sometimes carry the same hue through in their bridesmaids' gowns and even cakes and reception themes, says Cindi Freeburn, a New York-based public relations executive with David's Bridal.

Rosario Rivera of Shawnee, Kan., will be married in October. When she started shopping, she knew three things: She didn't want the standard strapless A-line dress that everyone seemed to wear. She thought she wanted a fitted silhouette dress. And she wanted a well-known designer

label. She met with Nolte and then planned a shopping trip to Chicago. Before she could go, he called her in to look at a Reem Acra gown.

It was a ball gown skirt, she says, with crystal straps. The most important feature was Wedgwood blue underlining and embroidery on the train. It was the difference that would set her apart.

Brides also are venturing away from the norm with accessories such as their grandmother's purse or custom-designed jewelry.

"Wear yellow shoes," suggests Millie Martini Bratten, editor in chief of Bride's magazine. "They also may want to wear fur shugs or wraps for the ceremony."

A colored gown can have considerable appeal, although it's a long way from the traditional "Father of the Bride" look of past decades. Barge asks brides to "think outside the white gown box." Champagne, taupe, pale pink and brown are strong possibilities. In Asia, red is the traditional color for weddings.

Another factor affecting styling is the increasing popularity among couples of flying off to an island or hill-top to say their vows. It's not always easy to wrestle a ball gown with a voluminous skirt into a suitcase. So designers are pumping up the quota of narrow silhouettes in soft, lightweight drapeable fabrics that look pretty on a beach or mountain. Silk organza, charmeuse and Irish linen are favorites.

The destination ceremony is so popular, Nolte says, that his shop offers to pack the gowns in the brides' travel bags so they are wrinkle-free and ready to wear on arrival.

As for other important trends, the strapless bodice is the most common image seen in magazines and on Web sites.

"I don't know of any trend that has had such a hold on the market," says Barge, who considers bare the mark of a modern dress.

"Bare is definitely there," adds Freeburn. "It's the major trend."

But bare does not refer only to the shoulders. Deeply cut backs are increasingly popular choices. Lace — especially Alençon lace — is mak-

ing a powerful comeback, the experts say, either in the entire dress or as trimming and insets.

At Paula Varsalona, a New York designer from Independence, Mo., they are cutting back a bit on embellishment in favor of "simple" elegance, assistant Kristin Endres says.

Ready-to-wear designers such as Zac Posen and Ralph Lauren have promoted the fashion trend of tight, lean bodices, extending over the waist and even sometimes past the hips in evening gowns. That shape is a natural silhouette for wedding dresses. The skirt may then explode into flares or a mermaid skirt with a train, as if one were walking the red carpet.

"Older brides want something a little sexy," says Bratten of

Bride's magazine. "They have been working out. They want to show off their bodies."

In other trends, sleeves are returning. Gowns are more lightweight. "They are lightening up in fabrics and texture," says Julie Alvarez, fashion editor at Modern Bride magazine. Hair jewelry is a popular alternative to the tiara.

Recent celebrity brides, such as Melania Trump and Kevin Costner's wife, Christine Baumgartner, still play into the fantasy of women who like to picture themselves in the same dress and setting. But the brides soon find that what works for one woman's body does not necessarily fit another.

And the influence of the slip dress Carolyn Bessette Kennedy

wore in the '90s or Diana's fairy princess gown of the '80s is not likely to recur.

She "doesn't want to look at her pictures in 20 years and wonder, 'What was I thinking?'" Barge says.

Gown-buying tips

Don't take more than one person to shop with you. You'll get confused by advice from many voices.

Research the Internet and magazines before you go to a store. Get an idea of what's out there and what it costs.

Keep an open mind. Remember that what might look wonderful on a Hollywood starlet or even your best friend may not be right for you.

Be open to color, especially in trims and embroidery.

Go to a store with a wide range of sizes. You'll feel much better trying on a dress as close to your size as possible.

Set a budget and tell the con-

sultant at the store what you

spend. If you fall in love with a gown of your price range, ask the store's mark down rack.

If the dress you love is expensive, consider having a seamstress make a copy in a different fabric or look for similar dresses in a lower price range. Bridal salons make many dresses of different fabrics or with trims to control prices.

Make sure you have a foundation garment, usually a line strapless bra.

If you want lots of attention as you are shopping, schedule a day appointment when the sales associates are busy.

Finally, make sure you have a right man, adds designer Barge. The event is all about the bride, not the wedding.



THE NEWLYWEDS, Pete and Susan Tarantino, pose for wedding photographer Angela Needs.

Breaking the fine-china pattern

BY LISA GUTIERREZ
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Rachel Kennedy's wedding guests didn't find fine china on her gift registry. Oversized serving platters? Yes. Fancy china? No.

"My mom kept telling me to do it," says Kennedy, 30, a personal trainer who lives with her husband, Yvan Cuevas, in Missouri's Northland. "But I just thought, 'China, what would I do with china?' But in her day, of course, that's what brides did. I thought about space and thought, 'I'm only going to use these plates once a year.'"

Thanks to three pre-wedding parties, including a couple's shower, Rachel and Yvan received everything they needed for their new household. So when they went to Bed Bath & Beyond they registered for what she calls "specialty items": gravy boats, serving dishes and "tons of barware."

So it goes for many brides who aren't registering for the same types of gifts, or even in the same places, as their mothers. The trend toward later-in-life marriages and a growing number of second marriages puts a spin on the traditional bridal registry. Between the two of them, many brides and grooms already own a toaster and a blender and a cappuccino maker; they don't need more stuff. Or if they do, it's specific.

The bride's wish list often "depends on if you're remarrying or later in life," says Samantha Eibling, a sales clerk at Pryde's Old Westport, which offers a bridal registry.

"You find a lot of 30-, 40-, 50-year-olds getting married now, and they've already established a kitchen when they're single," she says. "They're more filling in their kitchens."

In this day of the alternative bridal registry, brides are as likely to register for snorkeling lessons as

they are spatulas.

"They might be registering with a wine club. Certainly things like Home Depot and Lowe's, those types of stores, are very popular places as well," says wedding consultant Angela Alcantar, founder of A Bride's Best Friend in Kansas City.

Alcantar, state coordinator for the Association of Bridal Consultants, has heard of couples setting up bank accounts and letting guests know they can make contributions toward a down payment on a house.

The honeymoon registry is another new twist. WeddingChannel.com discovered two years ago, the last time it checked, that 57 percent of engaged couples showed some interest in registering for a honeymoon.

A honeymoon registry typically

allows guests to pay honeymoon costs, from airfare and hotel accommodations to activities such as scuba diving and horseback riding for the couple to do on their honeymoon, says Kathryn Lemmon, a freelance writer and frequent contributor to www.weddingzone.net.

"If you look at registries as a whole, it's pretty new," she says. "The difference now is that people don't need toasters anymore; they don't need a blender; they don't need six woks. What they need is help to pay for a \$6,000 honeymoon. OK, Aunt Mary pays for the horseback riding and Uncle John pays for the hotel night."

Like many registries, couples can sign up for a honeymoon service online. Or, they can work through a

travel agent, Lemmon says.

Anytime, though, a wedding gift registry isn't all about the couple. Alcantar has worked with couples who have suggested that their guests give donations to everything from the American Heart Association to breast cancer research.

The 2005 Wedding Survey by WeddingChannel.com reports that participation in that Web site's charity donation program grew 21 percent from January to February of this year. Couples can name up to four charities they'd like their guests to donate to.

At www.idofoundation.org, wedding guests can make online donations to support charities earmarked by the bride and groom. Last year the I Do Foundation, established in

2002, had 2,000 couples using it. Currently 15,000 couples use the service, says executive director Bethany Robertson of I Do, D.C.

Robertson thinks the on-line service is paying for the wedding themselves and who may think little silly to have all that spent on you," she says.

In some cases, couples' registry process altogether. Wayside Waifs board members instead of gifts, she and her husband asked guests to consider a donation to the animal shelter in honor of their big day.

See REGISTRY, Page 5

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Reception site is more than a location

BY ANDREA LORENZ
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Choosing a reception site might be harder than finding a spouse.

"That's your budget driver," says Audrey Wise of Above and Beyond Wedding Consultants in Lenexa, Kan. The reception will dictate the price of the entire event as well as the mood and memories people have of your wedding.

There's so much to decide: outdoor or indoor; black tie or casual; modern or traditional. Wading through complicated contracts and deciphering hidden fees adds to the pressure.

Mike Gehrs moved home to Kansas City after 10 years as an event coordinator in Chicago. He opened a service called KC Site Finders to help couples find a reception site when he couldn't find another similar service in the country.

Sure, you could hire a wedding planner, he says, but for \$150 he promises to find a few places that fit the criteria for your dream wedding.

Gehrs receives lots of requests for venues that will host both the ceremony and the reception. Older brides often go for a simple-yet-elegant reception, and younger women are more likely to want a more lavish fête.

Usually each couple has one requirement for the party, whether it is to have the party in a specific area of town or to bring in outside

liquor. "If they see a space they like," he says, "you see how fast that criteria changes."

But don't let feelings cost you. Wise says it's best to take a few days to think before signing a contract. Make a chart listing each place you like, what amenities are included and what costs extra. Food, liquor, tables, linens, cake-cutting, setup, security, bartenders, flowers — these things add up.

Before you tip, make sure gratuity is not already included, says Wise, because people sometimes end up tipping double. And find out how much turnover time the location allows between your party and the one before.

Party at home

Think you'll save money by having the party at your folks' place? It takes more than tiki torches and tree decorations to host a wedding reception or rehearsal dinner. Beware of hidden fees for extras that would be included in a rental facility.

Even if you do not plan to hire a wedding coordinator, at least hire someone for the wedding day to take care of setup, cleanup and unexpected surprises.

Stock plenty of trash bags and put someone in charge of emptying the trash regularly.

Set aside an accessible — yet out of the way — prep area for caterers.

Think you'll save money by having the party at your folks' place? Beware of hidden fees for extras that would be included in a rental facility.

Block off areas where you don't want guests by putting decorations on barriers.

Avoid long bathroom waits by setting up a powder room for women to reapply makeup. Choose a location close to the bathroom in front of a mirror. Add candles and some basic amenities.

Always have a backup plan. Reserve a tent or an indoor venue in case it rains.

Parking will be an issue. Tell neighbors about the party ahead of time. Most streets cannot accommodate 100 cars, so reserve an off-site parking location and shuttle guests to the party.

Check noise restrictions in your neighborhood. You don't want people to associate your wedding with a visit from the police.

Source: Kim Ho of You're Invited wedding coordinators in Overland Park, Kan.



MR. AND MRS. Pete Tarantino walk down the aisle, left, at the St. Theresa Catholic Church. Pete Tarantino helps his new wife Susan with the train of her wedding dress, top right, as they get into the limo to take them to the reception. Newlyweds Pete and Susan Tarantino take their first dance at their wedding reception, bottom right, at Parkway West banquet hall.

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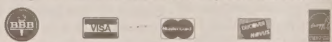
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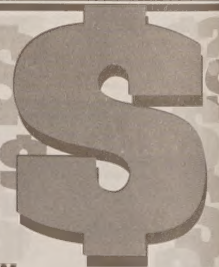
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